

# Mattheus E. Stephens, Esq.

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### **Founder, Progressive Law Group**

**2011 - Present**

Practice emphasizes employment law and business litigation. Assist corporate clients with all aspects of business including contract negotiations, non-disclosure agreements, licensing agreements, consulting agreements, employment law issues, trade secret and intellectual property protection and general risk management. Accustomed to all aspects of litigation from intake through discovery, settlement, arbitration and trial. AV Peer Review Rating from Martindale-Hubbell. Have initiated several LGBT civil rights matters including *Barnes-Wallace v. City of San Diego* and *Boy Scouts of America* over discriminatory leasing of public parkland, and *Sulpizio v. San Diego Community College District* concerning wrongful termination and retaliation against a lesbian coach who complained about Title IX violations.

### **Founding Partner, Stock Stephens, LLP**

**1999 - 2011**

Responsible for all aspects of daily management in a fast-paced litigation practice that included a wide range of legal services such as employment law and business litigation, marital dissolutions, writs and appeals and mediation.

### **Lecturer, University of California San Diego**

**1999 - Present**

Lecture in three introductory constitutional law courses for upper-division undergraduate students on topics such as employment law (state and federal) and constitutional law including equal protection doctrine; the first amendment; and due process.

### **Judge Pro Tem, San Diego Superior Court**

**1999 - Present**

Adjudicate a variety of civil matters. Attend all required training concerning bench conduct, demeanor and ethics; appropriately research and rule upon the substantive areas presented by the cases, ranging from contract disputes to landlord-tenant and neighbor disputes, consumer cases, and other matters within the small claims court jurisdiction.

### **Civil Service Commissioner, City of San Diego**

**2008 - Present**

Appointed by Mayor Sanders in 2008, currently serve as Vice-President of the Commission. The Commission, with the assistance of the Personnel Director, oversees nearly 10,000 city employees. Also, serve as a hearing officer on appeals regarding discipline, terminations, and related issues.

**Solo Practitioner, Law Offices of M.E. Stephens** **1997 - 1999**

Solo practitioner specializing in civil litigation, including employment discrimination, intellectual property and legal malpractice (both claims and defense).

**Litigation Associate, Post Kirby Noonan & Sweat** **1994 - 1997**

Extensive litigation experience involving employment discrimination, antitrust and unfair competition claims and professional negligence (accounting and legal). Sole associate on major antitrust case defending Hunter Douglas, as well as representing Canadian electronics supplier against suit by LG Electronics.

**Litigation Associate, Gray Cary Ames & Frye (now DLA Piper )** **1990-1994**

Wide-ranging litigation experience with an emphasis on research and writing motions, trial preparation, depositions, and assisting with in-house risk management. Served on Beech Aircraft trial team as well as *Brooktree v. AMD* litigation team.

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**EDUCATION**

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**J.D. - Rutgers University School of Law - Camden, NJ - 1990**

Winner of Stratton Advanced Moot Court Competition - 1989

Best Brief - Stratton Moot Court Competition - 1989

Represented Rutgers in National Moot Court Competition - 1990

**B.A. - College of New Rochelle - New Rochelle, NY - 1986**

Graduated *Cum Laude* with double major, History & Political Science

Class President, 1982-83

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**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS & COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

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Admitted to California State Bar – 1990

Admitted to United State District Court, Southern District of California – 1990

Admitted to United State District Court, Central District of California – 1997

Admitted to Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals – 2004

AV Peer Review Rating from Martindale-Hubbell – 2006

Nominated, Top Attorney in Labor & Employment, San Diego Daily Transcript - 2011

Business of the Year Award by Greater San Diego Business Association - 2009

Named “Top Attorney” by San Diego Daily Transcript - 2008

Lambda Archives “Pioneer, Trailblazer, Hero” Award - 2008

Editorial Advisory Board, San Diego Lawyer Magazine - 2005-2008

Outstanding Service to the Community Award, San Diego County Bar Association - 2001

Two-Term Chair, City of San Diego Human Relations Commission - 1999-2001

Champion of Pride Award, San Diego Lesbian and Gay Pride - 2000

Vice-Chair, California State Bar Committee on Women in Law - 1996-1997

Distinguished Service Award, San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program - 1993