

MAKAREM & ASSOCIATES

is pleased to announce

Ronald W. Makarem

as one of

California's

"Top 20 Under 40"

Attorneys

Daily Journal

WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 31, 2007
Vol. 113 No. 71
\$ 2.00

www.dailyjournal.com

— SINCE 1893 —

©2007 Daily Journal Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

Nerves of Steel

This is what being a plaintiffs' lawyer means: being able to fund your cases. It also means having nerves of steel.

A month before he was scheduled to appear in court, Ronald Makarem realized he didn't have the money to take the case to trial. He needed another \$100,000.

So, Makarem said, he went to noted plaintiffs' attorney Browne Greene and asked whether he would join the case — and put up the extra cash. Makarem had never met Greene. But that didn't stop him. He wanted the best for his clients.

"I get nervous about lots of things in life," Makarem said. "When I'm in my law mode, when I'm in court, when I'm in my office, I just feel comfortable. I just feel like I have a job to do."

Greene said yes.

"I was very impressed by the hard work he put in," Greene said recently. "I was very, very fascinated by the facts of the case." Makarem and Greene's client, Mark Bethea, alleged that Mark Burnett had gotten the idea for "The Apprentice" from him. The case settled for an undisclosed amount shortly before its scheduled state court trial. Steven A. Marenberg of Irell & Manella represented Burnett.

Makarem was also one of the lawyers representing Dr. Morry Waksberg against Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom. Waksberg alleged that Skadden had been his lawyer in one case only to later defend a party he was suing. Skadden, represented by Kecker & Van Nest, settled the case for \$2.6 million last February.

Makarem has no trouble going after large entities, including law firms.

"I never get any flak from other lawyers," he said. "I think we're doing our profession a service by litigating those kinds of cases."

He said he always wanted to be a plaintiffs' lawyer and represent people who were taken advantage of by big corporations. To that end, he opened his own office in 2004, which he shares with three lawyers and two full-time staffers.

"I have great people around me," he said. They manage their cases against much larger defendants by working efficiently, he said.

"We don't file stuff just to file stuff," he said. "If it's a truckload of discovery, we just give our responses and don't make a big deal out of it."

These days, his job entails more business responsibility. He doesn't mind that, necessarily.

After all, he said, "I always thought that the peak of being a lawyer is being your own lawyer and running your own firm and being in charge of ultimate decisions."

But he said he misses attending status conferences and writing motions in limine.

"I'm unfortunately a bit more of a businessman and less of a lawyer," he said.

He also has another time constraint these days: his 6-year old daughter. So, he said, while he's working hard, he's trying to keep it under control. "I'll probably be practicing for another 20, 30 years. There will be plenty of time to work 15-, 16-hour days."



Ronald W. Makarem 36
Makarem & Associates

Position: Name Partner
Law school: Pepperdine
University School of Law

Recent big case:

Makarem represented the plaintiff, Dr. Morry Waksberg, in *Waksberg v. Skadden, BC235810* (L.A. Super. Ct., filed Aug. 25, 2000), a legal-malpractice case against Skadden, Arps, Meagher & Flom that settled for \$2.6 million in February 2006.



MAKAREM & ASSOCIATES

A Professional Law Corporation

Representing Plaintiffs
In Legal Malpractice,
Serious Injury/Wrongful Death,
Insurance, Entertainment,
And Consumer Litigation

(310) 312-0299
www.makaremlaw.com