

The State Bar Of California

CALIFORNIA YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION 2002 JACK BERMAN AWARD

of Achievement for Distinguished Service to the Profession and the Public



Tracie L. Brown

Tracie L. Brown rendered extraordinary pro bono litigation services and outstanding leadership in a civil rights case, *Soko Bukai v. the Y.W.C.A. of San Francisco*. This case is of major importance to the Asian American community and to the public generally. It is a modern day “Alien Land Law” case arising from California’s infamous 1913 legislation which barred immigrant Japanese Americans from owning most kinds of real property because of their racial ancestry. In the words of her nominator, “Ms. Brown’s work in representing Soko Bukai and the Japanese American communities interests makes us proud to be lawyers. Her work stands as a fitting memorial to the legacy of the Issei (i.e., first generation) women...”

In addition, Ms. Brown has actively promoted within her firm the importance of pro bono work, featuring this case in her firm’s recruitment efforts. She is a role model for young lawyers in applying her skills not only to the business of the firm, but also to important issues in the community.

Ms. Brown is an associate at Cooley Godward LLP in the firm’s litigation department. She practices intellectual property, trade regulation, and general business litigation. She joined the firm in 1997 and is resident in the San Francisco office. In 1998-1999, Ms. Brown took a leave from the firm to complete a clerkship with the Honorable M. Margaret McKeown, Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Ms. Brown received a J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law in 1996. At Boalt Hall, she served as Research and Topics Editor for the *Asian Law Journal*, and received an American Jurisprudence Award in Health Care Law and a Prosser Award in Civil Procedure. During law school, Ms. Brown also worked as a law clerk at Morrison & Foerster and Farella, Braun and Martel. In 1992, Ms. Brown earned a B.A. in English and American Literature, *magna cum laude* with highest honors, from Harvard University, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Prior to attending law school, Ms. Brown taught English in Japan.

The California Young Lawyers Association of the State Bar salutes Tracie L. Brown for her outstanding contributions to the legal profession and to the public.



The California Young Lawyers Association established the Award of Achievement for Distinguished Service to the Profession and the Public to recognize the public service of a young lawyer. The CYLA Board of Directors named the award in memory of Jack Berman, who demonstrated outstanding service to the profession and the public by providing substantial pro bono legal assistance. Mr. Berman tragically died in the 101 California Street shooting.