



## **Byron Rodriguez and Andrew Toebben Recognized As "Lawyers On The Fast Track"**

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*The Recorder* has named VLP partners Byron Rodriguez and Andrew Toebben to its inaugural list of 50 "Fast Track" lawyers.

*Recorder* editors chose the winners after reviewing materials on more than 300 nominees from across California. The editors judged the nominees as leaders, lawyers and community members, and they stated that making the list typically required substantial accomplishments in all three areas — leadership positions within the firm or practice community, significant responsibility in high-stakes matters and extensive community involvement.

"We were pleased to see so many strong contenders," said *Recorder* Editor in Chief Greg Mitchell, "even though it meant some tough choices between people with enviable career tracks."

As chair of VLP's Real Estate group, Mr. Rodriguez specializes in utilizing alternative financing structures and tax advantaged capital structures with a focus on affordable and mixed housing and community health centers. His recent projects involved the representation of a national developer of affordable housing projects in the acquisition and financing of four affordable housing projects in Hawaii totaling over 700 units, and he represented three bay-area based neighborhood health centers with the acquisition, development and financing of new health care facilities utilizing new markets tax credits or proceeds of tax-exempt 501(c)(3) bonds. In addition to his active practice, Mr. Rodriguez served on VLP's Executive and Risk Management committees.

Mr. Rodriguez also has extensive leadership involvement in the San Francisco community. Mr. Rodriguez is a graduate of the 2007-2008 class of Leadership San Francisco. He currently serves as Vice President of the Board of Directors for San Francisco Beautiful and has worked with the group for seven years on issues related to the improved livability and quality of life for all San Franciscans. Mr. Rodriguez is also a long-standing member of SPUR (SF Planning & Urban Research Association) and has been deeply involved in fundraising for Spark, a nonprofit made up of young professionals that provides financial support and increases awareness for grass-roots women's organizations around the world. In addition, Mr. Rodriguez regularly undertakes pro bono real estate projects.

Mr. Toebben chairs VLP's Corporate, Securities and M&A group and has a robust legal practice representing high-tech start-ups, entrepreneurs, angel investors and venture capital funds. Mr. Toebben's clients are primarily in the consumer internet, social media, mobile, gaming and clean technology industries and he advises on legal issues faced throughout the business cycle. Since 2010, Mr. Toebben has played a crucial role in firm leadership by being a member of VLP's Executive committee. He heads VLP's Hiring committee and has spearheaded our recruiting process to



successfully hire almost 20 new attorneys to the firm. In addition to Mr. Toebben's contributions towards the success and growth of VLP, he has a proven track record of making service to the community a priority. In the fall of 2008, Mr. Toebben took a leave of absence to serve on Barack Obama's Campaign for Change. As Deputy Director of Voter Protection, he led the Presidential campaign's legal efforts to protect the vote in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Mr. Toebben currently serves as a member of the Fort Mason Center Board of Directors and will be traveling with the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce on an economic development tour through India in April 2012. His pro bono and socially conscious clients include Kiva and Kredits, two leaders in the micro-finance industry, as well as Change.org, GoodGuide and Golden Hour Restoration Institute.

Both Mr. Rodriguez and Mr. Toebben have established preeminent reputations in the community, built robust client bases while being recognized for their legal expertise and emerged as leaders of VLP while maintaining their commitment to community service and pro bono work. They clearly exemplify the best of California's attorneys and VLP feels proud to count them as part of its team.