

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2005

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## TOP 75 WOMEN

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### Editor's Note

*This week we celebrate the achievements of some of the state's top women litigators. Two years ago, we honored 30. Last year, we honored 50. This year, we're honoring 75 lawyers whose courtroom prowess would distinguish them in any crowd.*

*Litigators are considered the toughest among lawyers. For now, it seems worthwhile and necessary to highlight that women litigators can be every bit as aggressive, savvy and accomplished as their male colleagues.*

### Vickie E. Turner

San Diego

**Place of birth:** Gainesville, Ga.

**Law school:** University of San Diego School of Law

**Law firm:** Wilson Petty Kosmo & Turner

**Practice area:** Product liability, First Amendment, complex civil litigation

**Recent big case:** Turner successfully obtained a dismissal of a product-liability action involving a drug manufactured by Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, which the plaintiff had been prescribed and taken to treat gastroesophageal reflux disease. The plaintiff claimed to have contracted edema, congestive heart failure and high blood pressure after taking the medicine for a short while.

**People would be surprised to know that:** "I was a Gambling Control Board agent working undercover in Las Vegas casinos before law school."

**Mentor:** "I owe a debt of gratitude beginning with my parents, to my French teacher in high school, who guided my preparation to college, and to my law school mentor, Judge Judy Hartsfield, who encouraged me through Law Review and always challenged me to achieve more than I ever envisioned. To my listed mentors, I include the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association, which welcomed me with open arms as a baby lawyer and helped me grow and my partners, who inspire me by their accomplishments as we walk this path together."

**Mentoring:** "For three years, I have co-chaired the wonderful Achiever Program sponsored by the San Diego chapter of Links. We provide scholarships, five months of workshops, college preparation and leadership training to 20 college-bound African-American male high school seniors annually.

Finally, I provide mentoring to young attorneys who want to be trial lawyers, particularly in the product liability area.

