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Vasquez's clients stretch across Pacific

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Richard C. Vasquez, Principal, [Morgan Miller Blair](#)

Age: 46

Education: J.D., UC-San Francisco, Hastings College of the Law; B.A., political science, San Francisco State University

Address: 1331 N. California Blvd., Ste. 200, Walnut Creek 94596

Phone: 925-979-3600

E-mail: rvasquez@mmlblaw.com

Web: www.mmlblaw.com

Richard Vasquez handles commercial, unfair competition, intellectual property and securities fraud disputes for a variety of clients. Since 2000, he has been traveling to Taiwan several times each year to work on cases and visit clients, learning much from dealing with their problems, which range from intellectual property issues and technology to design disputes. An early adopter of technology devices that make work easier, Vasquez loves being in Taiwan, the "Disneyland of tech devices." He also likes to see life from an Asian perspective.

Top clients: Accton Technology Corp., Hitachi High Technologies of America, Neopost USA, Action Electronics and Chunghwa Picture Tubes Ltd.

Biggest cases: (1) Republic of Philippines v. Ferdinand Marcos, charging defendant client under civil RICO act; (2) Proxim v. 3Com & SMC Networks Inc., representing defendants against charges of patent infringement and countersuing for unfair competition and abuse of the IEEE committee standards process concerning WiFi technology; (3) defending a global postal machine manufacturer from charges of intentional interference in a merger earn-out agreement.

Favorite cases: Accton v. Micro Linear, San Jose Superior Court, where I led a Morgan Miller Blair team representing a network equipment maker. The judge ruled we had proven fraud, after discovering e-mails of the defendant's executive team admitting lying, and having the defendant U.S. chipmaker's president resolve the case by offering 60 times the original offer on the eve of trial.

Most rewarding aspect of job: Helping clients untangle intractable problems by understanding their business needs and goals and working them through the litigation process.

Best advice: Call me before you take your biggest business risks - my version of an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of litigation.

Favorite quote: Litigation is a machine into which you go in as a pig and come out a sausage. - Ambrose Bierce, written more than 100 years ago.

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