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TOP 40 UNDER 40

California's leading lawyers of 2017

In February, for the second time in 12 months, Ranen forced a case's dismissal by demonstrating that the plaintiff frequently lied.

Ranen's client Desert Parkway Behavioral Healthcare Hospital LLC, a nationwide psychiatric hospital, faced claims of sexual harassment and retaliation by a former registered nurse. Ranen combed through the plaintiffs' history and found instances of past harassment allegations against employers by the plaintiff, all of which proved baseless.

Ranen cross-examined the plaintiff for three hours in front of an Las Vegas arbitrator. When Ranen asked if she lied during her deposition, the plaintiff didn't respond or even refuse to respond, according to the lawyer's recollection.

She simply got up and left, with the plaintiffs' lawyer indicating that the arbitration would resume tomorrow. The next day, Ranen said, the plaintiffs' lawyer texted that his client withdrew her case, prompting a day of revelry in Vegas for Ranen before he flew back to Los Angeles.

Almost incredibly, one year prior Ranen won a gender and pregnancy discrimination case for Dimension Development Corp. when eleventh-hour investigative work proved that the plaintiff had fabricated most of her work history. "It was a déjà vu experience," Ranen said.

In the earlier case, Ranen cross-examined the plaintiff for 90 minutes, revealing one inconsistency after another.

The testimony prompted Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Chester A. Horn to indicate that the plaintiff may have perjured herself, and for Ranen's opposition to withdraw their case.

At a time when employment defense lawyers' success is often measured by whether they enforce their clients' arbitration con-

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tract, Ranen said that he loves the thrill and validation of bringing a case to trial. He respects the work of heralded plaintiff lawyers including Carney Shegerian of Shegerian & Associates who are seemingly in trial each week.

Ranen's fighting approach will likely

have an effect beyond his clients: He is already the vice chair of Lewis Brisbois's National Employment & Labor Practice and chair of the Wage and Hour Class Action Practice.

— Matthew Blake