



Education: JD magna cum laude, Whittier Law School; BS, Whittier College

Company Name: Best Best & Krieger LLP

Industry: Law

Company CEO:
Eric Garner, Managing Partner

Company Headquarters Location:
Riverside, California

Number of Employees:
400+ employees; 200+ attorneys

Your Location: Irvine, California

Words you live by:
Do your best and forget the rest!

Who is your personal hero? My mom

What book are you reading? *Heidi Hecklebeck* series with my daughters

What was your first job: Working as a student aide at the Professional Resource Center in Rowland Unified School District

Favorite charity:
The La Habra Woman's Club

Interests: Quilting, rock climbing, hiking, fishing (fresh and salt), skiing, and bike riding

Family: I am married with two young daughters, ages 7 and 3.

Let's Be Good Stewards of Inclusiveness

I hope that in my lifetime I get to see all of humanity demonstrating more kindness and respect, listening more and talking less, and overall, being better patrons of society. In today's increasingly fast-paced world, it seems that we, as members of society, have lost sight of the importance of speaking and treating one other with dignity, generosity, and grace. Too often, disagreements over viewpoints or policies devolve into unhelpful and unproductive personal attacks and put-downs. To me, the recent calls that we have heard for increasing and appreciating diversity, at their core, sound like cries for respect and acknowledgment. I hope that society is listening with a discerning ear, and that we can all think critically about ourselves and what we can do individually to be good stewards of inclusiveness.

As a child, I would often ask my mother what she might like as a special gift for a special occasion. Mom's response was always the same: world peace and love. I recall feeling frustrated by this response because I really wanted her to want something tangible—something that I could give. I knew I could not gift her world peace and love. Even if I could, I knew that not everyone in the world would want for there to be world peace and love.

As an adult, I have greater appreciation for my mom's dreams of world peace and love. My father immigrated to the United States from Guatemala as an infant with his mother. My mother was the daughter of European immigrants from many years before. With this diverse and unique perspective, my parents spoke regularly about the importance of appreciating the diversity of others—their cultures and their beliefs.

I believe that when we know and appreciate one another as individuals—not as a particular type or thing—we empower one another. And, through that empowerment, we benefit our community as a whole. At the core, appreciating diversity is about appreciating one another and understanding that humans are not carbon copies. We all have something to share and contribute. I hope that, as a society, we can move toward appreciating and valuing equally the contributions of everyone, so that all can feel that they belong. With that, I suppose I too hope for world peace and love.