**LINCOLN AT ITS BEST**

Congratulations

Professors Craig Needham, Anne Kepner and Kirsten Fish

ALL THREE of our Tort professors, Craig Needham, Anne Kepner and Kirsten Fish were recently announced as the 2014 **Trial Lawyers of the Year** by the Santa Clara County Trial Lawyers Association. In November Professor **KIRSTEN FISH** was awarded the 2014 **Street Fighter of the Year** award by Consumer Attorneys of California for my work on an elder abuse rape case.

Our Professors were honored to be named as the 2014 Trial Lawyers of the Year by the Santa Clara County Trial Lawyers Association on December 16, 2014 for their recent work on a dangerous condition of public property case. Needham Kepner Fish & Rickard, LLP, represented a man who was riding his bicycle to work and was struck by a vehicle that turned left through an intersection was controlled by a “keep clear” zone. Despite numerous attorneys turning down the case and having initial difficulty finding an expert, the firm persisted; they had visited the scene numerous times and were concerned that it presented a dangerous condition and were motivated to fight for the clients. The cyclist had suffered catastrophic injuries and required 24 hour care; his family was dedicated to providing him the best possible care. The firm pursued the case against the vehicle driver who unfortunately was inadequately insured and was also able to articulate a strong case against the driver’s employer even though he was driving to the jobsite when the collision occurred. Despite strong opposition and insurance coverage challenges, the firm succeeded at achieving a significant settlement against the driver and his employer. The case continued against the public entity for the dangerous condition of public property. The public entity defended itself vigorously citing multiple immunities and filed a summary judgment motion seeking a dismissal from the Court. Needham Kepner Fish & Rickard, LLP, prevailed and won the motion. Unfortunately, their client died shortly thereafter and the case became a wrongful death suit on behalf of the cyclist’s wife and two adult children. After defeating the defendant’s motion to trifurcate the trial, which sought to break the trial into three phases: immunities, liability, and then damages, the firm was able to negotiate a significant settlement. This was not an easy case and legal and factual challenges were faced at every stage and with every defendant; but the attorneys of Needham Kepner Fish & Rickard worked as a team and persevered for what was best for their clients.