

## EXECUTIVE PROFILES OF KERN COUNTY

**TIMOTHY LEMUCCHI****Title:** Attorney**Company:** Law Offices of Timothy Lemucchi**DAVID K. COHN****Title:** Managing Partner**Company:** Chain | Cohn | Stiles**About the company:**

The Bakersfield law office of Timothy Lemucchi specializes in major personal injury, wrongful death, criminal defense, work-related injuries, defective products, insurance bad faith, malpractice, nursing home/elder abuse and mediation.

**What I do:**

I have 53 years of experience in civil and criminal litigation in municipal and superior courts of Kern, Los Angeles, Fresno, Tulare, Inyo, Mono and Kings counties, as well as the U.S. Central District Court in Fresno and Bakersfield. My experience also includes practice in state appellate courts. I have conducted more than 230 jury trials and represented thousands of clients in personal injury cases.

**Where I grew up:**

I have a lifetime of calling Bakersfield my home. Italian immigrants, my parents established Luigi's, an iconic restaurant, deli and grocery, which has thrived for more than a century under my family's ownership and management. Most recently, my sister, Antonia Valpredo, and I authored and published the book "Luigi's: 100 Years, Then and Now." It is a collection of family stories, local histories, unique photographs and Luigi recipes. The book is on sale at Luigi's, which is located at 725 E. 19th St.

**Education:**

Growing up in East Bakersfield, I attended St. Joseph's Catholic Church and School and East Bakersfield High School. I earned Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from Stanford University, a juris doctor degree from Georgetown University and completed advanced studies at the University of Mexico and the University of the Americas.

**Family:**

I am devoted to my family, which includes my wife, Margaret; daughter, Lisa; cocker spaniels, Roxy and Rosie; and Jack Russell terrier, Lulu.

**What was your very first job and what did you learn from it?**

I started working at age 10 at Lemucchi's Grocery Store at 725 E. 19th St. in Bakersfield. I was a stock boy stocking and cleaning shelves. This was the beginning of a lifelong education on work ethic.

**Who was the biggest influence on your career?**

My grandmother, Clara Williams. In my early education, she helped me tremendously to learn how to do math, read and spell words by sounding them out. She was a great admirer of Abraham Lincoln and encouraged me from a young age to become a lawyer.

**What was the best piece of advice you ever received?**

To pursue a career where you felt personal rewards from excelling rather than just pursuing money. I have received professional recognition from following that advice. Most recently, I was selected to be included in the 2017 list of Southern California "Super Lawyers." The list honors lawyers who exhibit excellence in practice. Only 5 percent of attorneys in Southern California receive this distinction. This is my fifth consecutive year to be named to the "Super Lawyers" list.

**What is the most challenging part of your job?**

Preparing for jury trials, which take a tremendous amount of preparation and concentration.

**What is the most rewarding part of your job?**

Having a jury come back from deliberations with a verdict in favor of your client. That justifies the amount of time and effort you put into the trial.

**What is the most memorable accomplishment of your career?**

There are many, but they are usually associated with complex and lengthy jury trials, where the result has been favorable to my client and their case.

**About the company:**

Chain | Cohn | Stiles is Kern County's leading plaintiffs' personal injury and workers' compensation law firm. Our attorneys have represented clients from Kern County, San Joaquin Valley and throughout California for more than 80 years. We focus our efforts on protecting the rights of individuals who have been seriously injured due to the negligent, reckless or intentional conduct of another.

**What I do:**

I handle a caseload of wrongful death, civil rights, motor vehicle accident and other personal injury cases, while also managing four associate attorneys with my three legal partners and more than 20 paralegals, legal assistants and other staff. I've been practicing law as an attorney for 41 years, all in Bakersfield.

**Where I grew up:**

Born and raised in Bakersfield.

**Education:**

- West High School, 1968
- USC, 1972
- Southwestern Law School, 1975

**What was your very first job and what did you learn from it?**

I learned valuable lessons in two of my first jobs.

My first job was working at Pizzaville in Bakersfield, making dough, making pizzas and cleaning the restaurant. I learned that no matter the job or task, it's always important to do your best — even if means cleaning the bathrooms. That's the surest way to get recognized as a conscientious employee.

Another early job I had was as a roustabout at an oil refinery on China Grade Loop. The first week of my job had me climbing into a tank in 100-degree weather, shoveling sludge from the bottom. The lesson I learned: Stay in school.

**Who or what has been the biggest influence on your career?**

My uncle, Milt Younger, showed me the importance of always outworking the other guy, never giving up and being a strong advocate for those who aren't able to defend themselves.

**What was the best piece of advice you ever received?**

Civility is the cornerstone of our legal profession. Whether it's with clients, partners or legal adversaries, never forget the importance of being civil, honest and respectful.

**What is the most challenging part of your job?**

Helping our clients understand the difficulties of the legal system when they're at their most vulnerable and helping them appreciate that the legal system will ultimately do them justice. Also, it's a challenge dealing with insurance companies who want to treat our clients as numbers and not as human beings.

**What is the most rewarding part of your job?**

Helping a client get his or her justice. It's an amazing feeling to see a client or family compensated for their losses as a result of someone else's negligence, and through that compensation, help them restore their dignity, and in some way, make up for their harms or losses.

**What is the most memorable accomplishment of your career?**

I helped a young woman who had been severely burned obtain a significant settlement that allowed her to be the first person in her family to go to college. She obtained a degree in nursing, which then allowed her to work in a hospital burn unit, helping those who had suffered injuries just like her own.