LAW

Steven T. Coopersmith

The Coopersmith Law Firm
MANAGING ATTORNEY

When it comes to his law practice, Coopersmith doesn't subscribe to the adage, "Don't sweat the small stuff." While the law firm has grown since he founded it in 2008, Coopersmith continues to have a hand in everything his office does.

"I still touch everything that comes out of my firm that goes to the court or to a client or to opposing counsel," he said. "That's sort of my view of the law: Everything matters. You sweat exactly the small stuff. The details count, and it's the details often that win. When you see from the larger strategic perspective, but also see that the details count, that's where you make headway."

Coopersmith handles business and corporate litigation, executive-level employment matters, financial fraud and fine art disputes.

He also occasionally takes on what he called "cases of public merit or importance," such as litigation brought by his clients against the city and Civic San Diego. The lawsuit, filed in 2015, questions the legality of powers the city granted to the downtown planning agency. During the last year, Coopersmith's firm took more than a dozen depositions in the high-stakes case that has produced more than 100,000 documents. The parties have a tentative resolution in place, which he said should be disclosed in the coming months.

Coopersmith also coordinated a philanthropic contribution by his client, The Tom Hom Group, to help fund medical equipment at a newly built Ugandan hospital. In settling a consumer class action, Coopersmith arranged for the remaining unclaimed funds — more than $50,000 — to go to the Rotary Club of San Diego Foundation. Combined with funds from Rotary International, the San Diego chapter provided a gift of more than $300,000 to the hospital.

"That $300,000 went a substantial way toward assisting this population in need of medical services in rural Uganda. That's a case where we were able to do something good out of litigation," he said.

— **Jennifer Chung Klam**