

Melissa A. Lewis

Associate

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Focus Areas

Litigation and Trials
Discrimination and Harassment
Whistleblowing, Compliance and Investigations
Wage and Hour
Investigations
Government Contractors
Higher Education
Retail

Overview

Melissa A. Lewis is known for her strategic thinking and client-centered approach. She focuses on employment litigation and providing advice and counsel to employers across a wide range of industries. She has a proven record of successfully navigating complex employment disputes, and providing practical, business-focused solutions that align with her clients' goals.

Throughout her career, Melissa has effectively defended clients in cases involving allegations of harassment, discrimination, disability accommodations, whistleblower, retaliation, and related claims, achieving favorable outcomes through settlements, dispositive motions, and trial verdicts. Melissa's experience extends to class and collective actions in wage and hour disputes, where she has navigated complex litigation involving claims of unpaid overtime, misclassification of employees, record keeping, and meal and rest break violations.

Melissa has also successfully represented clients in arbitration and before administrative agencies such as the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Department of Civil Rights (formerly DFEH), Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board, and Employment Development Department.

In addition to her litigation prowess, Melissa conducts confidential workplace investigations and audits, and serves as a trusted advisor to employers, providing proactive guidance on a wide range of employment-related matters that focus on compliance with evolving employment laws, employee relations, policy development, and risk management. Her goal is to help clients minimize legal risks while fostering positive workplace environments.

Melissa is a sought-after speaker and writer on labor and employment topics, contributing insights to industry publications and seminars.

During law school, Melissa was editor of the *Thomas Jefferson Law Review*, on the Distinguished Honor Roll, and recipient of the Witkin Award for Academic Excellence, CALI Excellence for the Future Award, and Jefferson Medal in recognition of academic excellence. She was Valedictorian of her class.

Professional and Community Affiliations

- Member, Lawyers Club
- Member, California Employment Lawyers Association
- Member, Labor and Employment Division, San Diego County Bar
- Regional Director, San Diego Chapter, Fashion Group International, 2012-2014

Recognition

- Rated, AV Preeminent, *Martindale-Hubbell*
- Named, Rising Star, *Super Lawyers*, 2018-2022
- Named, San Diego's Top Lawyers, Labor & Employment, *San Diego Magazine*, 2020

Education

J.D., Thomas Jefferson School of Law, 2011, *summa cum laude*, Valedictorian

B.S., Hawaii Pacific University, 2007

A.A., Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising, 2005, *With Honors*

Bar Admissions

California

Courts

U.S. District Court, Southern District of California

U.S. District Court, Central District of California

U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California