



MELISSA M. YOON
SENIOR COUNSEL

Melissa Yoon, senior counsel in the Irvine office, is an experienced litigator whose practice focuses on defending and advising businesses in a wide array of employment-related matters, including claims alleging wrongful termination, discrimination, harassment, denial of family and medical leave, denial of pregnancy disability leave, failure to accommodate disabilities, violations of wage and hour laws, breach of contract, trade secret misappropriation, breach of fiduciary duty, and employee raiding. Ms. Yoon has also successfully represented clients in partnership, copyright, and commercial disputes.

Representative Cases

- Represented leading telecommunications company in state and federal actions and administrative matters alleging wrongful termination, disability discrimination and harassment in violation of the Fair Employment and Housing Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act, and retaliation in violation of state and federal leave of absence laws.
- Represented retailer in wage and hour class action alleging failure to pay wages for work performed off the clock, failure to reimburse employees for business expenses, and failure to provide off-duty meal and rest breaks.
- Represent software company in case involving allegations of trade secret misappropriation, breach of fiduciary duty, unfair competition, and breach of contract.
- Represented national title insurance company in corporate raiding and trade secret misappropriation case involving the alleged improper hiring of over 75 employees.

Publications

Ms. Yoon's recent publications include, "Navigating Punitive Damages in the Wake of *Exxon Shipping Co. v. Baker*," ABA Employment & Labor Relations Law Newsletter, Summer 2009.

Admissions

State Bar of California
U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit
All U.S. District Courts in California

Education

Ms. Yoon earned a Bachelor of Arts in History and graduated with honors from Northwestern University in 1997. She earned her JD from Loyola Law School, where she consistently placed in the top 5% of her class, served as the Editor-in-Chief of the *Loyola of Los Angeles Law Review*, and, upon graduation, received the National Association of Women Lawyers Award and the American Society of Writers on Legal Subjects Award.

Clerkship

Ms. Yoon clerked for the Hon. Ronald S.W. Lew in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California from 2000 to 2001.

Professional Activities

Los Angeles County Bar Association (member)
Orange County Bar Association (member of Resolutions Committee)
American Bar Association (member of Employment & Labor Relations Law Committee)
Past member of board of directors for Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles (2001 to 2003, 2005 to 2006)

Honors

Year after year, Melissa has been recognized as a "Rising Star" by *Los Angeles* magazine—a distinction reserved for only 2.5 percent of California lawyers who are under 40 or who have been in practice for 10 years or less.

Community Activities

Ms. Yoon serves on the advisory board for Beta Foster Care, a non-profit agency that provides private foster family placement and mental health services for children who have been removed from their parents' custody due to abuse and neglect.