



Michele B. Friend

Principal

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Los Angeles, CA – 213.341.1356

Michele B. Friend is a principal attorney in the firm's Commercial Litigation practice group with over 20 years of experience in matters involving contracts, fiduciary duties, fraud, real estate, business dissolutions, employment, trade secrets, trademarks and trusts. Michele also provides general counseling for mid-size businesses and religious organizations. She has resolved numerous breach of contract actions, employment disputes, and commercial real estate lease issues. Before practicing law, Michele was a licensed Certified Public Accountant at a national commercial real estate management company.

Services

- Commercial Litigation
- Labor and Employment
- Restrictive Covenants and Trade Secret Protection

Representative Matters

- Won complete defense verdict and \$1.25 million judgment on cross-complaint in real estate partnership dispute trial
- Successfully defended the President of a family office in a widely publicized, \$650 million breach of fiduciary duty and fraud action relating to a billionaire's estate
- Won arbitration against California Interscholastic Federation regarding school placement for high school sports competitions
- Successfully defended the President of a global manufacturing company accused of stealing Trade Secrets from a prior employer in a jury trial
- Resolved numerous contract and real estate disputes

Education

- CSU Law - Cleveland State University (J.D.)
- Miami University (B.S.)
 - Accounting and Finance

State Bar Admissions

- California

Court Admissions

- United States District Court for the District of California
- United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- Supreme Court of the United States

Professional Affiliations

- Past President, American Academy of Attorney-CPAs
- Association of Business Trial Lawyers
- Los Angeles County Bar Association
- Irish American Bar Association
- Los Angeles World Affairs Council
- Past Barrister President, Beverly Hills Bar Association

Recognitions

- Fellow of American College of Attorney-CPAs
- Super Lawyer, Southern California, Rising Star
- Beverly Hills Bar Association Distinguished Leadership Award
- Beverly Hills Bar Association Lawrence J. Blake Award

Featured Works

Speaking Engagements

- Winning Business Litigation Depositions: Preparation, Testimony, and Strategy (Beverly Hills Bar Association)
- How to Deal with Business “Divorces” – A View from a Seasoned Litigator (American Academy of Attorney CPAs Annual Meeting & Education Conference)
- Handbook training (Client employees)
- Welcome to The Wild West: Key Differences in California Law compared to other States, (American Academy of Attorney CPAs Annual meeting)
- Contract Compliance training (Client employees)
- Training on Music Licensing for online programming (Client employees)
- You Can’t Take it with You: Trade Secret Protection and Enforcement (Southern California chapter, American Academy of Attorney-CPAs)
- Contracts and Force Majeure Clauses in the Time of COVID-19 (American Academy of Attorney-CPAs, national meeting)
- Led Roundtable discussions on professionals adapting to remote work (Southern California chapter, American Academy of Attorney-CPAs)
- Dialogues on Freedom – led discussions on First and Fourth Amendment issues (Los Angeles County Bar Association)