HUSCH BLACKWELL

Melissa A. Berberoglu

SENIOR COUNSEL

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OVERVIEW

Melissa defends asbestos clients in every stage of contested litigation.

Melissa manages a high volume of toxic tort cases, guiding each matter from motions and pleadings to discovery and depositions, all the way through hearings and trials. Most of her work centers on asbestos litigation in California, where she has represented the full range of toxic tort clients, including manufacturers, suppliers, and premises owners. She has extensive experience as second and third chair at jury trials, always preparing each case as if it will go all the way to verdict.

Drawn to the adrenaline of litigation and oral argument since her law school days, Melissa has practiced in the California asbestos world for more than 20 years. She's readily familiar with the challenges defendants face in tough jurisdictions, and she knows how to achieve favorable settlements in spite of this environment. Melissa has a knack in discovery and investigation for finding the weak point that will let her establish holes in the plaintiff's case—and help her persuade opposing counsel that they're better off making a deal.

Clients value Melissa's deep knowledge of California toxic tort, as well as her quick responsiveness. She builds rapport easily, helping her move cases toward better results and more favorable settlements. Known as always unflappable, Melissa is a calm, affective advocate who steadily guides clients through high stakes matters.

Industries

Manufacturing Technology Transportation

Services

Asbestos Litigation Litigation & Alternative Dispute Resolution Toxic Tort

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Experience

- Represented asbestos clients in every aspect of the contested litigation process, including
 drafting motions and pleadings, conducting and responding to discovery, taking several dozen
 depositions a year, and representing them in all required hearings and trials.
- Second and third chaired numerous trials.
- Represented general product liability clients in litigation.

Education

- J.D., Southwestern Law School
 - o Southwestern Law Review, Editor-in-Chief
- B.A., University of California, Los Angeles

Admissions

- California
- U.S. District Court, Central District of California

Community Leadership

Melissa has handled pro bono legal work for the Santa Monica Sister Cities Association. She also actively supports the Rotary Club of Santa Monica, Santa Monica Black Empowerment Association, and the YMCA.

^{*}Contact Melissa to set up an in-person consultation by appointment in the Los Angeles office.