



Melissa Lehane Rawlinson Special Counsel

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“Litigation need not be an adversarial or challenging process. I endeavor—through careful listening and thoughtful dialogue—to help clients find resolutions that serve their entities in a positive way consistent with their core values and allow them to get back to the day-to-day tasks that are their mission and focus.”

Melissa Rawlinson represents public and private employers in all areas of employment litigation. She defends clients in disputes involving wage and hour claims, disability discrimination and accommodation issues, wrongful discharge, employment discrimination, and retaliation.

Melissa also serves the firm’s education clients, including public school districts, private schools, and higher education institutions, on employment- and education-related matters. Melissa represents clients in state and federal court in a variety of matters, including civil rights claims made by both students and employees.

Melissa began at Miller Nash as a litigation associate where she participated in trials, arbitrations, and mediations related to complex business and employment litigation. She took an extended leave of absence from the firm to focus on raising her three daughters and returned in 2021 as special counsel.

Professional Activities

- Multnomah Bar Association, member
- Oregon State Bar, member
- American Bar Association
 - Litigation Section, member

Civic Activities

- Cathedral School Advisory Council, 2014-2017
- Catholic Youth Organization, St. Mary’s Cathedral Club, Board of Directors, 2010-2012, 2018-2020
- National Charity League, Portland Chapter, Board of Directors, 2016-2019, 2020-2021
- Youngset Cooperative Preschool, Board of Directors, 2007-2010, 2013-2014

Education

J.D., University of California, Hastings College of the Law, 1996

B.S., Santa Clara University, *summa cum laude*, political science, 1993

- Phi Beta Kappa

Bar Admissions

Oregon, 1996

Publications

- “Criticism is a Two-Way Street: a Road Well Travelled in Today’s Political World: Supreme Court Decision about Community College Raises Issues for Public Body Boards,” Miller Nash (Apr. 2022)
- “Supreme Court Rules in Favor of Frustrated Cheerleader; But Schools Can, If They Proceed with Caution, Discipline Students for Some Off-Campus Speech,” Miller Nash, *News You Can Use* (June 2021)
- “Supreme Court Oral Argument: Will a New Updated Test Supplant Tinker?,” Miller Nash Graham & Dunn, *News You Can Use* (Apr. 2021)
- “Off-Campus Speech: Will the New Normal Bring New Rules?” Miller Nash Graham & Dunn, *News You Can Use* (Apr. 2021)

Personal Activities

Outside of the office, Melissa is occupied with the joys and challenges of family life with her husband Mark and their three daughters. Together they enjoy travelling the world, chatting over long family meals, dipping their toes in pools and beaches, and competing with one other on the tennis court.