



Nicole McLaughlin

Partner

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✉ nicole.mclaughlin@millernash.com

“I listen to clients’ needs and concerns and provide practical, solution-focused legal advice to meet clients’ goals.”

Nicole McLaughlin represents clients throughout the country in environmental law and complex commercial litigation, including breach-of-contract, franchise, and intellectual property disputes.

In her environmental practice, Nicole works on complex, multi-party federal and state Superfund sites nationwide, handling claims under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and its state law equivalents. She counsels energy company clients on environmental and franchise matters and advises business clients on a range of operational and regulatory issues.

Nicole handles civil actions in state and federal court from the pleading stage through discovery, law and motion, mediation, and trial. She frequently resolves disputes early in litigation and has obtained both plaintiff and defense verdicts at trial.

Before joining Miller Nash, Nicole was an associate at a Los Angeles law firm, where she handled litigation matters involving intellectual property, business disputes, premises liability, and personal injury. As a law student, Nicole served as an extern for the Honorable Valerie Baker Fairbank of the United States District Court for the Central District of California and was Chief Note & Comment Editor of the *Loyola of Los Angeles International and Comparative Law Review*.

Professional Activities

- Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles, Member
- Los Angeles County Bar Association, Member
 - Environmental Section, Member
- San Luis Obispo County Bar Association, Member
- Energy Bar Association Western Chapter, Member

Education

J.D., Loyola Law School, 2010

B.A., University of Southern California, *cum laude*, 2007

Bar Admissions

Oregon, 2023
District of Columbia, 2021
California, 2010

Court Admissions

U.S. District Court for the Central District of California

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

Representative Experience

Environmental & Natural Resources

- Assist clients in evaluating environmental liabilities, developing legal and technical strategies for remediating contaminated properties, completing environmental investigations, implementing cleanup actions, pursuing responsible parties and cost recovery claims, and resolving environmental disputes.
- Represents major energy company related to claims for response costs and natural resource damages at the Portland Harbor Superfund Site.
- Provide legal advice to major energy companies related to environmental remediation projects under local and state regulatory agency oversight.

Environmental Litigation

- Litigate against tribal trustee in case related to natural resource damages in the Lower Columbia River.
- Litigated against landowner claiming groundwater contamination originating from client's former gasoline service station.
- Obtained summary judgment dismissing client from CERCLA Section 113 contribution claim by establishing that cross-claimant failed to extinguish clients' potential liability as required by section 4(b) of the Uniform Comparative Fault Act.

Business Litigation

- Obtained summary judgment awarding client more than \$1.4 million in damages in addition to court-ordered fees, costs, and sanctions of more than \$100,000, in breach of contract and de-branding dispute against former gasoline station franchisee and business interference claims against unauthorized assignee.
- Represented solar energy company in arbitration related to breach of solar power purchase agreement resulting from purchaser's failure to provide senior property rights for solar power system as required by agreement.
- Represented oil companies in litigation alleging violation of the Petroleum Marketing Practices Act (PMPA) for termination of franchise agreement with franchisees.
- Represented petroleum wholesaler in PMPA dispute and "bona fide offer" issues involving more than 100 dealer plaintiffs.
- Obtained jury trial verdict for damages, plus court ordered fees, costs and sanctions, on behalf of a Colorado-based oil and gas company in breach of contract lawsuit for failed company acquisition due to breach of confidentiality agreement.
- Secured numerous permanent injunctions across the United States against trademark infringers misappropriating the name or likeness of a highly regarded restaurant enterprise.

Publications

- "PFAS Year-End Review: EPA Lays Groundwork for Tighter Regulatory Scrutiny," Miller Nash, coauthor (Feb, 2023)
- "Jurisdictional Creep: NPDES Permitting for Indirect Point Source Discharges," Miller Nash Graham & Dunn (Sept. 2018)
- "Buzz Kill: Coffee Companies Roasted by Court Over Warning Labels," Miller Nash Graham & Dunn, *From the Ground Up* (Apr. 2018)
- "Spectrum of Defamation of Religion Laws and the Possibility of a Universal International Standard," 32 LOY. L.A. INT'L & COMP. L. REV. 395, author (June 2010)
- "The Wrong Message in the Text: A Critical Analysis of California's Senate Bill 28's Failure to Communicate the Dangers of Text Messaging While Driving," CRIM. L. J., author (Fall 2010/Winter 2011)

Presentations

- “Managing Methane,” Texas Symposium on Climate Change and Energy Transition, moderator (Apr. 2023)
- “Understanding Business Entities and Personal Guaranties,” Western Region Building Materials Credit Association, co-speaker (Feb. 2019)

Recognition & Honors

- Recognized as a “Leader in Their Field” by *Chambers USA* for Environment—California, 2025-present