



## BERNADETTE STAFFORD

Of Counsel

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### ADMISSIONS

- » All courts of the State of California
- » U.S. District Court, Central, Northern and Southern Districts of California
- » U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

Ms. Stafford has practiced complex business litigation, including consumer class action defense, issues arising from claims of unfair competition, unfair business practices, interference with contract and other business torts, breach of fiduciary duty, and construction litigation. Ms. Stafford's litigation experience encompasses all aspects of litigation from inception through trial in both state and federal courts. Ms. Stafford also has significant experience with employment and corporate law.

### EDUCATION

Ms. Stafford earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in British and American Literature from the Franciscan University of Steubenville. Ms. Stafford graduated with honors from her alma mater in 2002 and was a member of the Alpha Chi Honor Society.

Ms. Stafford went on to earn her Juris Doctorate from the University of California, Davis School of Law, in 2006. While at UC Davis School of Law, Ms. Stafford was the recipient of the Witkin Award for Legal Writing and Editor of the U.C. Davis Law Review and the Journal of Juvenile Law & Policy.

### PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Ms. Stafford's wide-ranging litigation, counseling and corporate experience includes:

- » Business Litigation/Class Actions: Represented corporate clients in partnership dissolution dispute, defamation, wrongful foreclosure, trade secret, breach of contract, malpractice and collection actions. Represented corporate clients in class actions alleging violations of California's consumer statutes and other laws.
- » Corporate Law: Represented clients in connection with the drafting of elaborate corporate instruments including shareholder agreements, convertible note agreement, promissory note, employment agreements, management services agreement, conflict waiver agreements, lease agreements, option agreement, stock purchase agreement and bylaws for various corporate clients.
- » Employment Litigation: Represented corporate clients in wrongful retaliation, meal and rest break, and wage and hour claims in both state and federal courts (including individual and class claims). Represented corporate clients in connection with proceedings before the state Department of Labor.
- » Trust Litigation: Represented petitioners and respondents in malicious prosecution, elder abuse and breach of fiduciary duty claims.

- » Insurance: Represented national insurance clients in a range of actions including wide-scale claims for asbestos exposure.
- » Construction: Represented both national and local construction clients in an array of claims from construction defect to collection for work performed. Handled all aspects of construction litigation and counseling including issues related to breach of contract, contractual compliance, fraud, prompt pay laws, mechanic's liens, stop notices, statute of limitations, American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, green building and contractor licensing.
- » Antitrust: Represented national opt-out plaintiffs in antitrust recovery action against cartel defendants which achieved lucrative settlement for firm.

#### COMMUNITY

- » Ms. Stafford is a member of the St. Thomas More Society of Orange County.

#### ARTICLES

- » "Green Building Construction: Rewards, Rules and Risks," The 24th Annual Construction Superconference (Dec. 2009).
- » "Rewards and Risks to Green Building Construction," Associated General Contractors Annual Legal Retreat (Oct. 23-25, 2009).
- » "Rewards and Risks to Green Building Construction," U.S. Green Building Council (Sept. 24, 2009).