



Melissa A. Murphy-Petros

Of Counsel

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Melissa Murphy-Petros is chair of Wilson Elser's Appellate practice. She has concentrated in post-trial and appellate litigation throughout her career, and has handled more than 300 appeals in state and federal reviewing courts across the country. The national scope of Melissa's practice and her depth of experience benefit the firm's existing engagements and are frequently leveraged in appeals of cases tried by other firms. Her work spans a variety of Wilson Elser's practice areas, with particular emphasis on complex tort and casualty defense, liability and property insurance coverage, and commercial litigation.

Melissa also acts as trial monitoring counsel in high-exposure cases or those involving issues of recurring importance to the client. In this practice, she partners with Wilson Elser and outside trial counsel to prepare and argue dispositive pre-trial motions, motions *in limine*, motions for directed verdict, jury instructions, verdict forms and post-trial motions. She also monitors trials and assists in developing overall trial strategy to help ensure that error is preserved and that issues are properly postured for appeal.

Professional Activities

Melissa is a member of the Illinois Appellate Lawyers Association and DRI's Appellate Advocacy Committee. She is a former member by appointment of the New York State Bar Association's Committee on Courts of Appellate Jurisdiction and is a frequent author and CLE lecturer on appellate practice and other litigation topics.

Education

- Loyola University Chicago School of Law (J.D., 1995)
- University of Notre Dame (M.A., 1989)
- Indiana University (B.A., 1987)

Services

- Appellate
- National Trial Team

Bar Admissions

- Illinois
- New York

Court Admissions

- Supreme Court of the United States
- U.S. Court of Appeals, First Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Third Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Tenth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan

Professional Affiliations

- Illinois Appellate Lawyers Association
- New York State Bar Association
- DRI: The Voice of the Defense Bar, Appellate Advocacy Committee
- Claims and Litigation Management (CLM) Alliance
- Illinois Defense Counsel (IDC)

Awards & Honors

- Selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America®*, 2026