



Sharon Medellin

Of Counsel

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Orange County, CA – 949.404.5024

Sharon Medellin has represented private-sector clients and governmental entities in all facets of civil litigation throughout her legal career. With more than two decades of experience, her practice has largely focused on the defense of civil rights claims, employment disputes, premises liability claims, and construction defect matters. She has represented clients zealously at mediation, arbitration, and trial. Sharon also has significant experience with civil writs and appeals in both the California Court of Appeal and Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Sharon has successfully defended numerous lawsuits alleging excessive force and unlawful search and seizure by law enforcement. She has defended employment lawsuits brought under federal and state law for wrongful termination, discrimination, and retaliation, as well as California wage-and-hour disputes. Sharon has significant experience in premises liability matters involving claims of sidewalk defects, traffic signal failures, and road design deficiencies, including claims of catastrophic injury. She has also represented public entities in administrative proceedings involving employment matters and labor disputes, including serving as lead counsel in civil service commission appeals and arbitrations and as legal adviser to municipal civil service commissions and personnel appeals boards.

Sharon began her legal career at a boutique law firm focusing on oil and gas law. There, she gained significant experience in general business litigation, including contract disputes and business torts. She represented clients in a variety of environmental matters involving both state and federal statutes and regulations, as well as common law causes of action.

Regardless of the complexity of the issues, Sharon approaches each case with a blend of legal acumen and a genuine commitment to the clients she serves.

Services

- Commercial Litigation
- Employment & Labor
- Appellate
- Municipal/Local Government

Education

- University of California, Los Angeles School of Law (J.D., 2000)
- University of California, Berkeley (B.A. Sociology, *high honors distinction*, 1996)

Bar Admissions

- California

Court Admissions

- Supreme Court of the United States
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Central District of California
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California

Professional Affiliations

- Latina Lawyers Bar Association
- Municipal Law Institute, League of California Cities

Awards & Honors

Pasadena Magazine Top Attorneys – Civil Litigation, 2013–2014

Languages

- Spanish

Representative Matters

Obtained defense jury verdict in federal civil rights action alleging excessive force when a taser was deployed after a suspect was shot twice by law enforcement.

Secured defense jury verdict in action brought under the California Fair Employment & Housing Act alleging age discrimination and age-based associational discrimination.

Obtained defense jury verdict in wrongful termination lawsuit brought under the California Fair Employment & Housing Act and California Family Rights Act alleging disability discrimination and retaliation.

Secured summary judgment in favor of municipal client in personal injury action arising from fallen tree limb in a public park based on the immunity afforded to public entities for natural conditions on unimproved public property.

Obtained summary judgment in favor of municipal client in section 1983 civil rights action

involving execution of search warrant by law enforcement.

Secured summary judgment in favor of public entity client in personal injury action involving traffic collision during police pursuit.

Published Opinions

City of Chico v. Superior Court (2021) 68 Cal.App.5th 352, 283 Cal.Rptr.3d 432.