


Laura Watanabe

PARTNER | NEW YORK

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Laura is a partner in the litigation and arbitration team.


Laura has more than 25 years of employment litigation and counseling experience, representing and counseling companies as well as executives in all aspects of employment laws throughout the US and internationally.

A significant portion of her practice focuses on representing high-level executives and professionals in connection with their employment, including negotiation of employment, compensation, and severance agreements. But she also regularly counsels executives and companies (both large and small) on all employment law matters, including employment discrimination, harassment and retaliation claims, disability, FMLA and other leaves of absence, whistleblower claims, unfair business practices, wage and hour issues, restrictive covenants, disciplinary issues, employment and severance agreements, terminations, reductions in force, internal investigations, employee handbooks, and other personnel policies and procedures.

Laura also has a significant amount of litigation experience, having tried more than fifty jury trials and having handled hundreds of arbitrations and administrative matters before city, state and federal agencies and other tribunals.

Prior to founding her own law firm, Laura practiced employment law at international and national law firms. She began her legal career as an Assistant District Attorney. As a Deputy Bureau Chief in the Kings County District Attorney's Office in Brooklyn, New York, she ran a trial bureau and taught trial practice after having prosecuted high-profile homicide and sex crime cases.

SECRETARY **LANA MOON**

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ADMISSIONS

- New York, 1987
- Connecticut, 2007
- California, 2002
- US District Court, Southern and Eastern Districts of New York, 1993
- US District Court, Northern Districts of New York, 2007
- US District Court, Northern and Central Districts of California 2002
- US Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit 2002

PUBLICATIONS

'[You're Fired! Arts Workers Face Legal Woes](#),' The Art Newspaper - March 3, 2021, quoted

'Former New York City Bar Diversity and Inclusion Director Deborah Martin Owens joins Sidley.' New York Law Journal - January 15, 2021, featured

'Wake Up Call: Hogan Lovells, Holland & Knight Freeze PAC Money.' Bloomberg Law - January 13, 2021, featured

'Withers Hires Legal Veteran For Employment Practice.' Law360 - January 11, 2021, featured

EDUCATION

New England School of Law
Clarion University of Pennsylvania

LANGUAGES

ENGLISH

DATES

JOINED: 2021

New York

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