

STACY L. FODE, ESQ.

Partner
AV Rated, Martindale Hubbell



STACY L. FODE focuses her practice on employment litigation and advisement and business litigation. She specializes in representing business clients in all aspects of employment law including wrongful termination, discrimination, sexual harassment, whistle blower, employment agreement and trade secret disputes, and wage and hour matters, including class actions and PAGA matters. Stacy's clients have included employers in the financial, insurance, retail, entertainment, technology, package delivery, telecommunications and energy industries.

Rated AV®-Preeminent by Martindale, Stacy has represented hundreds of clients before state and federal courts, appellate courts and administrative agencies such as EEOC and DFEH throughout California.

In addition, she regularly conducts employment-related training seminars for employers and employment lawyers, and investigations of employee misconduct and discrimination claims for her clients.

She also negotiates and drafts a variety of employment agreements for high-level executives and has extensive experience in matters involving the protection of trade secrets and confidential information. Stacy has been a frequent speaker on employment and diversity issues and has appeared on television segments on Fox News, NBC, and CBS.

A current member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Minority and Women Owned Law Firms, Stacy is active in the community and committed to issues of diversity and inclusion. She is a past President of the Lawyers Club of San Diego, a bar association committed to advancing the status of women in the law and society with over 1,000 members, and a current member of its Advisory Board and Judicial Endorsements Committee. She is also a past member of the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Bar Association and member of its Leadership Outreach Committee and is active in organizations involving her two children and community of Point Loma.

Stacy has been recognized as a Super Lawyer, 2015-2020; San Diego Magazine Top Lawyer; a San Diego Metro Magazine Mover to Watch; and a recipient of the San Diego Business Journal's Women Who Mean Business Award, 2009.

AWARDS & HONORS:

- AV® Preeminent® Rating, Martindale-Hubbell
- Recognized by Best Lawyers® (2015-Present)
- San Diego Magazine Top Lawyer (2014)
- San Diego Metro Magazine “Mover to Watch” (2012)
- Recipient of San Diego Business Journal’s “Women Who Mean Business” Award (2009)

AV®, AV Preeminent®, Martindale-Hubbell DistinguishedSM and Martindale-Hubbell NotableSM are certification marks used under license in accordance with the Martindale-Hubbell® certification procedures, standards and policies. A description of the selection methodology can be found at www.martindale.com/Products_and_Services/Peer_Review/Methodology.aspx. No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.

The Best Lawyers in America, Labor and Employment Ranking is issued by Best Lawyers®. A description of the selection methodology can be found at <http://www.bestlawyers.com/About/MethodologyBasic.aspx>. No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP & AFFILIATIONS:

- American Bar Association, Member
- American Inn of Court, Louis M. Welsh Chapter
- California Women Lawyers, Member
- Defense Research Institute, Member
- Lawyers Club of San Diego, President (2005-2006); Advisory Board (2005 – present); Fund for Justice, Member; Judicial Endorsements Committee - present
- NAMWOLF, Board of Directors - present; Labor & Employment PAC, Member; Outreach Sub-Committee Co-Chair (2015-2016); Newsletter Editor (2009-2010)
- San Diego County Bar Association; Board of Directors (2007-2010); Secretary (2008-2009)
- San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation, Policy Committee

RECENT SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS:

- “Significant Judicial Decisions/Legislative Updates and One Year into the Pandemic: Key COVID-19 Considerations and Challenges for Employers” - Nukk-Freeman & Cerra’s Hot Topics in California Employment Law (April 2021)
- “The Workplace Transformed” Brown Law Group webinar (August 2020)
- “Getting Ahead of the Curve – How Employers Can Manage Risk During These Challenging Times” Brown Law Group webinar (April 2020)
- “Managing Employment and Privacy Risk in the Work From Home Environment, NAMWOLF L&E and IP PAC (April 2020)
- “Annual Employment Law Update” Brown Law Group, San Diego, California (2013-2020)
- “Battling the Bully: My Way or the Highway” NAMWOLF Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, California (September 2019)
- “Leadership Development Summit” Lawyers Club of San Diego, San Diego, California (November 2018)
- “Ban the Box Laws and Limits on Use of Criminal Background Checks and Arrest Records” SHRM Legal Insights at The Prado, San Diego, California (November 2018)
- “Bridge the Gap: Best Practices for Pay Equity Audits” NAMWOLF Trials and L&E PAC Regional Event, San Jose, California (August 2018)
- “Beyond the Headlines: The Practicalities and Corporate Response to #MeToo for all Employees” Xerox General Counsel Summit, Rochester, New York (April 2018)

RECENT SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS (Continued):

- “Blurred Lines: Cutting Edge Workplace Ethics for Employment Lawyers” NAMWOLF Labor & Employment Practice Area Committee Webinar (June 2017)
- “Rear Window Investigation” San Diego County Bar Association, San Diego, California (September 2016)
- “Rising Ethical and Demographic Changes that Will Impact the In-House Legal Industry in the Next Ten Years” Allstate Insurance Company, Northbrook, Illinois (October 2016)
- “The ADA: 25 Years and Compliance is Still Tricky” NAMWOLF Labor & Employment Practice Area Committee Webinar (April 2016)
- “Workplace Policies” Women in Law Conference 2015 Institutional Opportunities, San Diego, California (October 2015)
- “50 Shades of Grey: Ethical Rules Related to the Role of In-House Counsel” NAMWOLF Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (September 2014)
- “Hot Topics in Employment Law” – Recorded CLE presentation, Attorney Credits (Ongoing)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

- Brown Law Group, San Diego, California
 - Partner & Chief Client Officer (2019 - 2020)
 - Managing Partner (2015 - 2019)
 - Partner (2008 - 2015)
 - Associate (2003 - 2008)
- Smaha & Daley, San Diego, California
 - Associate (1999 - 2002)

ADMISSIONS:

- California
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- U.S.D.C. Southern District of California
- U.S.D.C. Central District of California
- U.S.D.C. Northern District of California
- U.S.D.C. Eastern District of California

EDUCATION:

- University of Oregon School of Law, Eugene, Oregon J.D. (1998)
- University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, California, B.A., Law and Society, cum laude (1994)