



PRACTICE FOCUS

Michele B. Friend is a Principal attorney in the firm’s Commercial Litigation practice group with over 20 years of experience in matters involving contracts, fiduciary duties, fraud, real estate, business dissolutions, employment, trade secrets, trademarks and trusts. Michele also provides general counseling for mid-size businesses and religious organizations. She has resolved numerous breach of contract actions, employment disputes and commercial real estate lease issues. Before practicing law, Michele was a licensed Certified Public Accountant at a national commercial real estate management company.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Successfully defended the President of a global manufacturing company accused of stealing Trade Secrets from a prior employer in a jury trial
- Won complete defense verdict and \$1.25 million judgment on cross-complaint in real estate partnership dispute trial
- Successfully defended the President of a family office in a widely publicized, \$650 million breach of fiduciary duty and fraud action relating to a billionaire’s estate
- Won arbitration against California Interscholastic Federation regarding school placement for high school sports competition

RECOGNITION

- Fellow of American College of Attorney-CPAs
- Super Lawyer, Southern California, Rising Star
- Beverly Hills Bar Association Distinguished Leadership Award
- Beverly Hills Bar Association Lawrence J. Blake Award

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Employee Handbook training (Client employees)
- Training on Music Licensing for online programming (Client employees)
- Contract Compliance training (Client employees)
- You Can’t Take it with You: Trade Secret Protection and Enforcement (Southern California chapter, American Academy of Attorney-CPAs)
- Contracts and Force Majeure Clauses in the Time of COVID-19 (American Academy of Attorney-CPAs, national meeting)
- Led Roundtable discussions on professionals adapting to remote work (Southern California chapter, American Academy of Attorney-CPAs)
- Dialogues on Freedom – led discussions on First and Fourth Amendment issues (Los Angeles County Bar Association)

EDUCATION

- CSU College of Law, J.D.
- Miami University, B.S., Accounting and Finance

ADMISSIONS

- California
- USDC Central District of California
- 9th Circuit Court of Appeals
- U.S. Supreme Court
- Certified Public Accountant (Ohio)

MICHELE B. FRIEND

Principal, Los Angeles

PRACTICE AREAS

- Commercial Litigation

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Immediate Past President, American Academy of Attorney-CPAs
- Los Angeles County Bar Association
- Association of Business Trial Lawyers
- Irish American Bar Association
- Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce
- Beverly Hills Bar Association