



PRACTICE FOCUS

Deborah (“Debbie”) Petito is a Principal attorney in the firm’s Labor & Employment, Estates and Trusts and Litigation practice groups.

Debbie has practiced in the labor and employment field for over 35 years. Her practice focuses on all types of employment matters, including employment litigation (discrimination, harassment and wage and hour) in federal and state courts, before state and federal agencies regulating wages and hours of employment and in arbitration proceedings and labor matters (dealing with unions and union-related issues). She acts as an outside employment counsel to several companies in various industries providing advice on an ongoing basis. She also conducts investigations, provides general advice and counsel to employers on employee discipline and termination, wage and hour issues as well as other employment topics. Debbie frequently speaks on labor and employment issues.

In her litigation practice, Debbie represents individual clients and corporate entities, including non-profit corporations, in all types of trust litigation, including defending trustees in petitions to have them removed, challenging gifts to caregivers and last-minute amendments to trusts resulting from undue influence. In addition, she handles financial elder abuse matters and claims against an elder, trustee or beneficiary for unpaid wages by a caregiver.

DEBORAH H. PETITO

Principal and Practice Group Leader, Labor and Employment, Los Angeles

PRACTICE AREAS

- Estate and Trust Litigation
- Labor and Employment Law

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Elder Law Committee for the Los Angeles County Bar Association, Former Chair

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Successfully settled two class action lawsuits against clients in 2022 in the early stages of the litigation saving the clients substantial fees and costs
- Obtained large settlement in probate matter in 2022
- Conducted over 12 investigations of employee claims of discrimination and/or harassment during COVID

EDUCATION

- Pepperdine University School of Law, J.D.
- University of California at Los Angeles, B.A., cum laude

ADMISSIONS

- California
- United States District Court, Northern, Eastern, Central and Southern Districts of California
- Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals
- United States Supreme Court