



→ Dianne Baquet Smith

Retired - Of Counsel

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Dianne Baquet Smith is retired from the firm and is now Of Counsel. Prior to joining the firm in 1991, Dianne was senior labor and employment counsel with Sears, Roebuck and Co.'s Regional Law Department, where she litigated cases and provided legal services and advice to facilities in 14 western states.

Areas of Practice

Dianne has extensive experience representing management in litigation of wrongful discharge, discrimination, harassment, retaliation, wage and hour, breach of contract, breach of public policy, ERISA, and other types of employment cases, through trial. She has handled traditional labor issues (grievance arbitrations, union representation proceedings, unfair labor practices, strikes, contract negotiations, lockouts, handbilling, picketing, etc.). She has trained and advised clients on personnel matters, employment practices, compliance, loss prevention, operating, and other subjects, facilitating preventative and necessary responsive action. She has handled a broad range of administrative matters regarding business practices, including wage and hour claims, employment discrimination charges with state and federal agencies in California, Oregon and Washington, and proceedings before the National Labor Relations Board, OSHA, and the California Department of Industrial Relations.

As a trial attorney with the National Labor Relations Board from 1980 through 1982, Dianne investigated and tried unfair labor practice cases and handled representation matters and injunction proceedings.

Honors

Received the "Preeminent" AV® rating by Martindale-Hubbell® (This is the highest rating an attorney can receive for legal quality and ethics)

Recognized by the California Diversity Council as the "Most Powerful and Influential Woman of California," 2014
Southern California *Super Lawyers*, 2007, 2009, 2011-2013, 2015-2019

Media Mentions

Sheppard Mullin Announces Launch of New Firm Diversity Programs
Metropolitan News Enterprises, 11.14.2008

Lonely At the Top
Daily Journal Extra, 02.28.2005

Court Won't Wash Off Makeup Rules
ABA Journal eReport, 01.07.2005

Stand And Deliver
Daily Journal, 10.1999

Speaking Engagements

Panelist, 2017 Corporate Counsel Women of Color

Panelist, LA County Bar Association, 2017 Civil Litigation Walk-Through Program

Speaker, 2016 Corporate Counsel Women of Color

Lecturer, Council On Education In Management

Speaker, National Association of Broadcasters Radio Group

Speaker, John M. Langston Bar Association

Speaker, Los Angeles County Bar Association, Barristers Section and Labor and Employment Law Section

Speaker, Black Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles

Speaker, State Bar of California, Section on Labor and Employment

Panelist, American Bar Association

Speaker, California Minority Counsel Program

Speaker, California League of Cities

Speaker, Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles

Speaker, National Bar Association

Speaker, Practising Law Institute

Education

J.D., University of California, Berkeley, 1980

A.B., Stanford University, 1977

Admissions

Supreme Court of the State of California

U.S. Court of Appeal for the Ninth Circuit

U.S. District Court, Central, Eastern, Northern and Southern Districts of California