



→ Melissa Freeling

Associate

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Melissa Freeling is an associate in the Business Trial Practice Group in the firm's San Diego office. As a key member of the firm's Construction and Multifamily Housing Teams, Melissa brings her expertise to a broad range of legal matters.

Areas of Practice

Melissa is an experienced trial attorney who primarily represents owners, developers, and investors in a variety of business disputes, with a special emphasis on construction litigation and multi-family matters. At Sheppard Mullin, she routinely counsels landlords and property management companies on compliance matters. Melissa's litigation expertise extends to a wide range of construction-related claims, including construction defect, delay, cost overrun, mechanic's lien, and quiet title.

Melissa works collaboratively with clients, consultants, expert witnesses, and opposing parties to resolve disputes economically and efficiently. When early resolution is not feasible, Melissa stands as a fierce advocate for her clients, litigating rigorously on their behalf. She has successfully represented clients in both state and federal court.

Melissa's dedication to her clients and her profession has been recognized by several prestigious awards. She is the recipient of Sheppard Mullin's 2022 Bob Gerber Pro Bono Award, in recognition of her significant pro bono work in response to the crises in Afghanistan and Ukraine. She has also been acknowledged by the San Diego Volunteer Lawyers Program (SDVLP), a prominent local legal aid organization, for her commitment to SDVLP's guardianship program.

Honors

Leaders of Influence in Law, *San Diego Business Journal*, 2025

Bob Gerber Pro Bono Award, *Sheppard Mullin*, 2022

Articles

Real Estate, Land Use & Environmental Law Blog Posts

- "Unleashing AB 2216: Will Fido Have a Leg Up on Landlords?" March 28, 2024

Speaking Engagements

"UCREW," Commercial Real Estate Women, April 25, 2025

Events

California's Balcony Bills: Ensuring Safety and Compliance
Webinar, 04.17.2024

Podcasts & Webinars

California Balcony Bills: Ensuring Safety and Compliance
04.17.2024

Practices

Litigation

Class Action Defense

Construction

Industries

Mortgage Banking

Multifamily Housing

Education

J.D., UC Berkeley School of Law

M.A., California State University, Long Beach

B.A., California State University, Long Beach

Admissions

California

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California

U.S. District Court for the Central District of California

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit