



Michael A. Wahlander

Partner

San Francisco

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Biography

Practices & Sectors

Labor & Employment

Employment Litigation

Wage & Hour Litigation

Complex Discrimination Litigation

California Wage & Hour Litigation

Wage & Hour Class and Collective Actions

Mr. Wahlander is a partner in the Labor & Employment Department of Seyfarth Shaw LLP's San Francisco office. His practice focuses on all aspects of labor and employment litigation, including wage and hour, discrimination, retaliation, harassment, wrongful termination cases, and cases under the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act. He represents employers in single-plaintiff, multi-plaintiff, and class action cases. Mr. Wahlander also provides advice and counseling to his clients on a number of issues, such as wage and hour compliance, EEO compliance, and appropriate use of background checks.

Mr. Wahlander has significant experience litigating cases in federal court, state court, and state administrative agencies. His experience encompasses all phases of litigation, including courtroom jury trial experience, first and second chair courtroom bench trial experience, arguing dispositive motions, taking depositions, defending depositions, and appeal. He has successfully obtained summary judgment and court-ordered dismissals for his clients. Mr. Wahlander has also been part of multiple successful trial teams and has first-chair experience in mediations, where he has negotiated favorable results for his clients.

From 2013 to 2018, *Super Lawyers* magazine named Mr. Wahlander a "Rising Star" for Northern California in Employment Defense Litigation.

Mr. Wahlander currently serves as the Chair of the San Francisco Office's Pro Bono Committee.

Before joining Seyfarth Shaw LLP, Mr. Wahlander served as a Deputy County Counsel for the County of Santa Clara. He defended the County, its agencies, and its officials in employment, business tort, tort, contract, constitutional civil rights, special education, and land use cases.

In law school, Mr. Wahlander was an intern for the Honorable Mary Jo Levinger in the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara. He was also an Honors Intern for the California Attorney General's Office where he worked in the litigation group. As an intern at the Katherine and George Alexander Community Law Center, he litigated wage and hour cases before the California Labor Commissioner as a certified law student. Mr. Wahlander served as the Managing Editor of the Santa Clara Law Review and was a member of his law school's national honors moot court team in constitutional law.

Before law school, Mr. Wahlander was an insurance broker in the entertainment industry, where he provided insurance and risk management advice to high-profile clients and their business managers.

Education

- J.D. Santa Clara University School of Law (2008)
Dean's List; Emery Merit Scholarship; Law Faculty Scholarship; Managing Editor, Santa Clara Law Review, Volume 48; Honors Moot Court; Appellate Advocacy Best Brief; Certificate of Excellence: Legal Research and Writing; CALI Award Civil Clinical Skills; CALI Award Intellectual Property; CALI Award Cyberspace Law
- B.A., University of California, Los Angeles (2001)
cum laude, Political Science, Public Policy minor.

Admissions

- California

Courts

- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the Northern 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. District Court for the Southern District of California

Publications

- Co-Author, "Failure to Investigate and Fat-Shaming Permit Employment Claims to Proceed," *One Minute Memo*, Seyfarth Shaw LLP (January 2, 2018)
- Co-Author, "California Supreme Court Says Retiring Employees Must Be Paid Promptly," *One Minute Memo*, Seyfarth Shaw LLP (August 22, 2016)
- "Constitutional Coexistence: Preserving Felon Disenfranchisement Litigation Under Section Two of the Voting Rights Act," *48 Santa Clara L. Rev.* 181 (2008)