



MELANIE M. SMITH

PARTNER

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Melanie Smith is a Partner in Selman Breitman's San Diego office and is a member of the firm's Commercial Litigation, Construction, Equine, Product Liability, and General Liability practice groups. Melanie's litigation experience includes premises liability, commercial auto, personal auto, construction accidents, construction defects, subrogation claims, equine law, products liability, and commercial litigation matters. Her clients include developers, general contractors, subcontractors, and product manufacturers. She also has experience in defending horse ranches, equestrian centers, and horse trainers in disputes involving unique matters ranging from personal injury claims to contract claims relating to purchases and sales, as well as loss-of-use claims, and has experience in transactional matters and corporate formation.

With extensive experience in general liability, including taking numerous matters to trial or arbitration, Melanie has a keen ability to investigate and defend cases through final resolution or judgment. She works closely with clients to effectively and efficiently manage all aspects of litigation in order to best serve her clients' interests.

Melanie has been invited to speak at the annual CLM Construction Conference, has been published in the CLM Construction Claims magazine, and has spoken on multiple panels for the San Diego County Bar Association's MCLE program. She has served on the San Diego County Bar Association Animal Law Executive Committee as a Member-At-Large for 2019 and 2020.

Melanie has previously served on the Wake Forest University Alumni Council and currently serves as the San Diego Wake Forest Club president. She is also the coordinator for Wake Forest's Alumni-In-Admissions program for San Diego and Orange Counties. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for Foster the Earth, a 501(c)(3) organization which provides educational outdoor experiences to underserved youth in the foster care system.

BAR ADMISSIONS

California, 2003

U.S. District Court Central District
of California

U.S. District Court Southern District
of California

EDUCATION

Loyola Law School, J.D., 2003
American Jurisprudence
equivalent award in Trial
Advocacy and Advanced Trial
Advocacy

Wake Forest University, B.A., 1997
cum laude

AWARDS & AFFILIATIONS

DRI, Member

Association of Southern California
Defense Counsel

San Diego County Bar Association

San Diego Wake Forest Club,
President

Wake Forest University Alumni-in-
Admissions Program,
Representative