GOLDBERGSEGALLA



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Los Angeles
Orange County
San Francisco

PRACTICES

Employment and Labor

Management and Professional Liability

Retail and Hospitality

INDUSTRIES

Accounting and Consulting

Professional Employer Organizations (PEOs)

Retail and Hospitality

Stephen C. Mazzara

PARTNER

EXPERIENCE

Stephen C. Mazzara is co-chair of the firm's Employment and Labor practice group and resides in the firm's Los Angeles office. Stephen has represented employers of all sizes, including locally owned businesses, nonprofits, and multi-national corporations in state and federal court, arbitration proceedings, and administrative venues throughout California. His practice encompasses all aspects of employment law, with a specialized focus on claims of discrimination, retaliation and harassment under the California Fair Employment and Housing Act, whistleblower claims, wrongful discharge, and wage and hour matters.

An essential part of Stephen's practice is meeting with clients to assess pre-litigation strategy including preventive counseling, evaluating employee handbooks and policies, analyzing hiring and termination decisions, and conducting investigations in an effort to minimize the potential risk of litigation. For nearly two decades, Stephen has served as trusted counsel to his clients by adapting his litigation to the needs of his clients and the unique facts of each case. Stephen is also an active member of the Professional Liability Underwriting Society (PLUS).

Prior to dedicating his practice to employment law, Stephen had extensive litigation experience handling high-profile wrongful death cases, sexual/physical assault matters as well as professional negligence and legal malpractice cases.

Stephen was raised in Irvine and spent time living in San Francisco before returning to Los Angeles with his wife and two children. He continues to represent clients in both Northern and Southern California.

EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Employment and Labor

- Obtained summary judgment for a non-profit client on claims of age discrimination
- Successfully defended a national client in several administrative hearings in which claimants sought unpaid wages and liquidated damages resulting in labor commissioner orders in favor of client
- Obtained favorable pre-litigation resolution of sexual-harassment case against supervisor
- Vigorously defended and successfully resolved wage-and-hour class-action involving complicated indemnification issues
- Provided employment as well as wage-and-hour counsel for a national payroll company

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Management and Professional Liability

- Successfully handled an appeal and secured an affirmation of the trial court's dismissal sustaining an attorney client's demurrer to the plaintiffs' financial elder abuse and fraudulent concealment causes of action
- Obtained a dismissal of a malicious prosecution action by filing a special motion to strike (anti-SLAPP motion); the court awarded $23,052 in attorneys' fees and costs for

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prevailing on the motion and dismissed the plaintiff's entire complaint with prejudice

Catastrophic Personal Injury

- Defended a client in a motor vehicle accident occurring at a closed construction site brought by three plaintiffs who sustained life threatening injuries
- Defended numerous wrongful death matters resulting from alleged automotive negligence
- Defended negligence actions resulting in catastrophic injuries, including traumatic brain and spine injuries

HONORS & AWARDS

- Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Rating: AV Preeminent
- *Best Lawyers in America*
  - Litigation – Labor and Employment, 2024

BACKGROUND

ADMISSIONS

- California
- U.S. District Courts for the Central and Southern Districts of California

EDUCATION

- Whittier Law School, J.D., 2007
- University of Southern California Marshall School of Business, B.S., 2001

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Professional Liability Underwriting Society (PLUS)
- Claims and Litigation Management Alliance (CLM)
- Association of Southern California Defense Counsel (ASCDC)

PUBLICATIONS & EVENTS

PRESENTATIONS

- "Emerging Cannabis Issues for the Hospitality Industry" (Co-Presenter), Finance and Technology Professionals – Northern California Chapter, San Francisco, CA, February 20, 2019

WEBINARS

- "Hot Topics in Employment Law" (Co-Presenter), GS Webinar Series, November 21, 2019

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PARTNER

- "CAL-OSHA Update: Exploring CAL-OSHA's Stricter Standards and Strategies for Compliance" (Co-Presenter), GS Webinar Series, March 7, 2019