Buchalter

Craig D. Nickerson

San Diego, California
Shareholder

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Areas of Practice & Industry Specialties
Labor & Employment; Litigation

Craig Nickerson is a Shareholder in the Firm's San Diego office and a member of the Labor & Employment practice group. His practice focuses primarily on litigation, with particular emphasis on representing and defending employers against claims of wrongful termination, discrimination, harassment (including sexual harassment), retaliation, wage and hour matters (both individual and representative or class claims), breach of contract, and other employment-related claims. Mr. Nickerson litigates such matters in state and federal courts, as well as before state and federal agencies, such as the California Civil Rights Department ("CRD"), formerly known as the Department of Fair Employment and Housing ("DFEH"), and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC"),

Mr. Nickerson also provides advice and counseling to employers on a variety of employment-related issues, including personnel matters, hiring, termination, reductions in force/layoffs, accommodations and leaves of absence(i.e. FMLA, CFRA), and wage & hour compliance. Mr. Nickerson also works with clients on conducting internal and external investigations, preparing and updating employee handbooks, arbitration agreements, and other company policies and procedures. He also conducts training for employers on a variety of employment-related topics, including discrimination, retaliation, leaves of absence, and sexual harassment.

Awards and Honors

- Rising Stars® distinction in the field of Labor and Employment Law (2008 and 2009, Law & Politics)

Professional Involvement

- Member, California State Bar Association
- Member, San Diego County Bar Association

Representative Matters

- Successfully litigated numerous matters through trial, arbitration, or to nuisance value settlements following mediation and/or dispositive motion practice.
- Obtained defense verdict on behalf of a large auto dealership, following a month long jury trial, in a wrongful termination case involving allegations of whistleblower retaliation and race discrimination.
- Successfully represented non-profit organization against claims of retaliation, failure to pay wages/overtime, and alleged meal and rest break violations, resulting in favorable jury verdict on retaliation claim and nominal settlement of wage-related claims during trial.
- Summary adjudication granted in favor of health care employer against claims of wrongful discharge, age discrimination, and retaliation.

- Summary judgment granted in favor of defendant/property owner where plaintiff/neighbor asserted prescriptive easement over defendant's vacant land for use as a landing strip for his private airplane.
- As part of a multi-firm legal team representing over twenty defendants in response to multiple lawsuits alleging physical and sexual abuse, obtained the voluntary dismissal of eighteen plaintiffs one week before the first trial was scheduled to begin. The dismissals, after nearly two years of highly-contentious litigation, resulted in a complete victory for the client.
- Obtained favorable verdict for residential clients following five-day bench trial. Clients were five property owners seeking to stop construction of multi-family condominium complex in a residential neighborhood where such construction was strictly prohibited

Publications

- Gender Bias in a Florida Court: Young v. Hector and the Competition Between Mr. Mom and the Poster Girl for Working Mothers, *California Western Law Review*, October 5, 2000
- God, Vodka, and Gender Relationships: Depictions of Soviet Life in the Fiction of Vasily Shukshin, 1958-74, *Ball State University*, April 11, 1998
- Red Dawn In Lake Placid: The Semi-Final Hockey Game at the 1980 Winter Olympics as Cold War Battleground, *Canadian Journal of History of Sport*, April 22, 1995

Presentations

- "Buchalter Labor & Employment 2023 Seminar," Smart Center , October 25, 2023

Education
Mr. Nickerson holds a J.D., cum laude, from California Western School of Law, where he received the Academic Achievement Award in Trial Practice, International Law, and served as a Staff Editor and Writer for the California Western Law Review. He was also a member of the National Moot Court Team and received an Academic Scholarship. Furthermore, he possesses an M.A. in History from Ball State University and was awarded a full academic scholarship. He also earned a B.A. in History from Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, graduating with honors, cum laude, and minoring in Political Science.

Bar Admissions

- California
- Massachusetts

Court Admissions

- United States District Court for the Northern District of California
- United States District Court for the Southern District of California
- United States District Court for the Central District of California
- United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts