

Attorney



Jessica M. Baquet

Partner

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Jessica M. Baquet is a litigator who devotes her practice to complex commercial disputes, labor and employment matters and contested proceedings concerning trusts and estates. She represents individuals, municipalities and institutional clients in all phases of litigation in state and federal courts and before administrative bodies. Jessica also handles appeals to the Appellate Divisions of the New York State Supreme Court, the New York Court of Appeals and the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

As a complement to her litigation practice, Jessica routinely provides labor and employment counsel to employers of all sizes. She advises clients regarding compliance with federal, state and local laws; drafts employment contracts, severance agreements, handbooks and policies; prepares affirmative action plans and compensation analyses; and provides sexual harassment and sensitivity training.

Jessica is the firm's Deputy Assistant General Counsel and is a Member of the firm's Management Committee.

Jessica's wide-ranging experience makes her a true partner to clients from a case's inception through its final appeal, and in otherwise formulating litigation-avoidance strategies. She recognizes that every client has unique goals and views her most important role in each engagement as that of a tactician and strategist.

In her commercial practice, Jessica has specific experience in representing businesses and individuals in cases involving contract disputes, partnership and shareholder disputes, insurance coverage issues, joint venture agreements, breaches of fiduciary duty, unfair competition claims, and breaches of restrictive covenants.

Jessica's employment law practice involves the defense of employers against claims alleging discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and wage and hour violations, and in lawsuits involving the enforcement of employment and separation agreements. She also represents employers in investigations and proceedings before administrative agencies, including the New York State Division of Human Rights, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the New York State and United States Departments of Labor, and the New York State Industrial Board of Appeals.

In her estate litigation practice, Jessica represents beneficiaries, creditors and fiduciaries in proceedings before the Supreme Courts and Surrogate's Courts throughout New York state, including those involving probate, will construction, inheritance rights, fiduciary accountings, and the removal or suspension of fiduciaries.

Education

St. John's University School of Law
New York University

Recent Experience

Matter of Berk – Acted as lead counsel to estate fiduciaries in litigation concerning elder exploitation, resulting in two groundbreaking appellate decisions and a favorable decision after a 37-day bench trial. (Matter of Berk, 71 A.D.3d 883 (2d Dep't 2010) and Matter of Berk, 133 A.D.3d 850 (2d Dep't 2015); Matter of Berk, 60 Misc.3d 1270(A) (Surr. Ct. Kings Cty. Jun. 27, 2018)).

Matter of Koeppel – Acted as lead trial counsel to petitioners during 10-day breach of contract trial, and related 12-day criminal contempt trial, both resulting in favorable decisions. (Matter of Koeppel, NYLJ, May 25, 2018 at p. 23; Matter of Koeppel, NYLJ, Feb. 28, 2018 at p. 22 aff'd 166 A.D.3d 473 (1st Dep't 2018).

Rose v. Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. – Acted as lead counsel to real estate developer and obtained summary judgment on claims against insurance consultant for negligent misrepresentation. (Rose v. Arthur J. Gallagher & Co., NYLJ, Oct. 2, 2014 at p. 22).

Matter of Lancaster v. Inc. Vill. of Freeport – One of two lead attorneys responsible for defending Village against claimed violations of the First Amendment and New York Public Officers Law asserted by various public employees, resulting in landmark decision by the New York State Court of Appeals. (Lancaster v. Inc. Vill. of Freeport, 92 A.D.3d 885 (2d Dep't 2012) aff'd 22 N.Y.3d 30 (2013).

Admissions

New York

New Jersey

U.S.D.C., Eastern District of New York

U.S.D.C., Southern District of New York

U.S. Court of Appeals, 2d Cir.

U.S. Supreme Court

Affiliations & Appointments

New York State Bar Association, Member

Nassau County Bar Association, Member

Nassau County Women's Bar Association,
Member

Long Island Hispanic Bar Association,
Member

News & Publications

"Love, Law and Marriage," *Long Island Business News*, Featured August 17, 2018.

"In 'Bellwether', Judge Rejects Spousal Share for Caretaker," *New York Law Journal*, Featured July 17, 2018.

"Firms Should Prepare Now for State's Paid Family Leave," *Long Island Business News*, May 30, 2017.

"Practical Considerations for Time Limited Trials," *Suffolk Lawyer*, May 2017.

"Family Responsibility Discrimination Now Unlawful in New York," *New York Law Journal*, May 25, 2016.

"Defending Hostile Work Environment Claims in the Digital Age," *New York Law Journal*, May 6, 2015.

"Defense and Indemnification of Public Employees After Lancaster," *Municipal Lawyer*, Spring 2014.

"Aiding Avarice: The Inequitable Results of Limited Grounds for Spousal Disqualification Under EPTL § 5-1.2," *23 St. John's J.L.*, Comm. 843 (2008)

Cited by the Appellate Division, Second Department, in *Campbell v. Thomas*, 73 A.D.3d 103 (2d Dep't 2010).