DONAHUE FITZGERALD ATTORNEYS

Melanie Y. Kim

Associate

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Practice Areas

- Employment
- Litigation

Overview

Melanie Kim is an associate whose practice focuses on employment law and represents employers in all aspects of employment litigation. She represents small to large businesses across industries in single-plaintiff lawsuits, administrative complaints, and class and PAGA representative actions involving wage and hour, discrimination, retaliation, harassment, and wrongful termination issues.

Melanie handles all phases of employment litigation, including pre-litigation investigation and resolution, discovery, motions practice, mediation, and trial preparation. She also advises employers on workplace compliance with California and federal employment laws and provides practical guidance on drafting and updating employment policies and employee handbooks.

While in pursuit of her J.D., Melanie served as a Judicial Extern for the Honorable Jon S. Tigar of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California. She also worked as a Teaching Assistant for a Legal Reading and Writing course. During the COVID -19 pandemic, she volunteered for Berkeley Law's CARES Act Small Businesses Project, assisting small business owners applying for federal aid available through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Professional & Community Affiliations

- Board of Directors (Treasurer), Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom
- Panel Attorney, AIDS Legal Referral Panel
- Member, Alameda County Bar Association

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Recognition

- Named, *Super Lawyers Northern California Rising Stars list*, 2025-present

Bar Admissions

- California

Languages

- English
- Korean

Education

- **J.D.**, University of California, Berkeley School of Law
  - Symposium Editor, Asian American Law Journal at Berkeley Law
- **B.A.**, The University of British Columbia

Recent Articles/News

- Donahue Fitzgerald Attorneys Named 2026 Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
- Serving face, losing rights: The legal fine print behind KATSEYE, *The Daily Californian*, May 9, 2026
- Action Required: California "Know Your Rights" Template Now Available, January 15, 2026
- Donahue Fitzgerald Attorneys Named 2025 Super Lawyers
- California Supreme Court Increases Potential Penalties for Unpaid or Unreported Missed-Break Premiums, July 1, 2022
- Supreme Court Rules California Arbitration Agreements Between Employers and Employees Are Enforceable as to Employees' Individual PAGA Claims, June 17, 2022
- Associate Melanie Kim Joins Donahue Fitzgerald

Recent Speaking Engagements

- December 10, 2025, 2026 Annual Employment Law Update , Berkeley, CA, 94705
- December 09, 2025, 2026 Annual Employment Law Update , Virtual
- July 24, 2025, Staying Out of Court (Mostly): Arbitration Agreements and PAGA Challenges , Contra Costa County Employer Advisory Council - CCCEAC, Virtual
- December 05, 2024, 2025 Annual Employment Law Update , Berkeley, CA
- December 03, 2024, 2025 Annual Employment Law Update , Webinar

- December 07, 2023, 2024 Annual Employment Law Update , Webinar
- December 05, 2023, 2024 Annual Employment Law Update , Webinar
- September 15, 2023, ACBA Labor and Employment 2023 Symposium: From Courtroom to Workplace: Preserving Diversity in Light of Recent Ruling on Affirmative Action , Alameda County Bar Association (ACBA)
- December 08, 2022, 2023 Annual Employment Law Update , Oakland, CA
- December 06, 2022, 2023 Annual Employment Law Update , Webinar