



Melissa A. Salimbene

Member

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PRACTICES

- Litigation
- Employment
- Intellectual Property

ADMISSIONS

- New Jersey
- New York
- U.S. District Court, District of New Jersey
- U.S. District Court, Eastern, Southern and Northern Districts of New York

EDUCATION

- Rutgers University School of Law - Newark (J.D., 2004)
- Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey (B.A., 2001)

Melissa A. Salimbene, a commercial litigator, is experienced in handling all aspects of complex business and commercial matters. Melissa regularly represents clients in the state and federal courts of New Jersey and New York, in several areas, including commercial matters, employment litigation and intellectual property disputes. Melissa also frequently handles matters before numerous administrative agencies, including the Equal Employment Commission, New Jersey Department of Labor, New Jersey Division on Civil Rights, New York State Division of Human Rights, New York City Commission on Human Rights, the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board and other administrative agencies.

Melissa has successfully litigated a wide range of matters and focuses her practice on partnership and shareholder disputes; contract related claims; trust and estate disputes; intellectual property including trademark, trade dress and copyright infringement; unfair competition, restrictive covenants and trade secrets; as well as representing employers in all aspects of employment litigation, including wrongful discharge, discrimination, harassment, whistleblower, retaliation, and wage and hour claims.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Obtaining summary judgment dismissing claims for discrimination and retaliation brought pursuant to New Jersey, New York and federal law
- Successfully defending clients from discrimination claims brought before the New Jersey Division of Civil Rights, New York State Division of Human Rights, New York City Commission on Human Rights and U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
- Defending clients from claims brought under the Fair Labor Standards Act, as well as under New Jersey and New York wage payment laws
- Defending perfume manufacturer from claims of trade dress, trademark and slogan infringement and violation of the right to publicity brought by reality personality
- Representing restaurants and other businesses in the hospitality industry in litigation to protect and enforce their intellectual property rights including trademarks, décor, recipes and menus
- Regularly representing merchandising companies and recording artists in obtaining ex parte nationwide injunctions and orders of seizure with regard to infringing counterfeit merchandise offered for sale at concerts and events
- Representing a radio personality with regard to intellectual property, employment and right of publicity claims

- Successfully litigating contentious restrictive covenants cases in various industries, including the financial, technology, hospitality, restaurant, beverage and scrap metal industries
- Obtaining a preliminary injunction protecting a franchisee's right to continue its business and enjoining a franchisor from discontinuing the parties' relationship, which resulted in a settlement of the matter
- Conducting internal investigations for clients
- Regularly provides harassment and discrimination prevention training for clients and their employees

While attending Rutgers University School of Law, Melissa served as a legal research and writing instructor and a staff editor of the *Rutgers Law Record*. Prior to joining the firm, Melissa was a law clerk to Judge Sybil R. Moses, the Assignment Judge of the Superior Court of Bergen County, N.J.

Melissa was selected for inclusion in *New Jersey Super Lawyers - Rising Stars* from 2009 - 2016. She was also selected by the *New Jersey Law Journal* to the 2015 New Leaders of the Bar listing of the state's leading young attorneys.

MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

- American Bar Association
- Essex County Bar Association
- New Jersey Women Lawyers Association
- New York State Bar Association
- Association of the Federal Bar of New Jersey

PUBLICATIONS

- Protections Under LAD Continue To Expand (July 2, 2012)
- Defining Government's Role in Public Contracting (February 2008)
- When Judges Stray: The Proper Roles of the Branches of Government in Public Contracting (November 2007)

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- 25th Annual GSC SHRM Conference (September 26, 2016)
- Ethics Presentation for In-House Counsel: Part Four of A Complimentary CLE Series (December 4, 2013)
- Legal and Ethical Considerations in Conducting Effective Internal Investigations (November 15, 2012)
- Employers Breakfast Briefing: Legal & Ethical Considerations of Internal Investigations (March 28, 2012)

ALERTS

- The Defend Trade Secrets Act - Providing More Protection For Trade Secret Owners (May 2016)
- An Expectant Mother Cannot Be Denied Alcohol In Bars And Restaurants In New York City Based Upon Her Pregnancy (May 2016)
- New Jersey Employers: Don't Forget to Circulate Your Annual Notices - Not All Notices Can Just Be Posted! (February 2016)

- Agreements To Arbitrate Are Invalid If Contained In An At-Will Employee Handbook (January 2016)

NEWS

- 31 CSG Attorneys Selected for Inclusion in 2016 New Jersey "Super Lawyers" and "Rising Stars" (March 22, 2016)
- Chiesa Shahinian & Giantomasi PC Announces Five Attorney Promotions (January 18, 2016)
- CSG's Nicole DiMaria and Melissa Salimbene Named to New Jersey Law Journal's 2015 New Leaders of the Bar (August 19, 2015)
- 32 Wolff & Samson Attorneys Selected for Inclusion in 2015 New Jersey "Super Lawyers" and "Rising Stars" (March 18, 2015)
- Wolff & Samson Announces Attorney Promotions (January 2, 2014)
- Thirty-five Wolff & Samson Attorneys Selected for Inclusion in 2013 New Jersey "Super Lawyers" and "Rising Stars" (May 1, 2013)
- Thirty-three Wolff & Samson Attorneys Selected for Inclusion in 2012 New Jersey "Super Lawyers" and "Rising Stars" (April 4, 2012)
- Thirty-one Wolff & Samson Attorneys Selected for Inclusion in "New Jersey Super Lawyers" and "Rising Stars" (March 21, 2011)