



Nicole R. Vanderlaan Smith

direct: 949-760-6128

nicole.v.smith@schillinglawgroup.com

Nicole R. Vanderlaan Smith is a Partner with Schilling Law Group, PC, in Newport Beach. Her practice focuses on complex litigation involving business disputes, and employment litigation and counseling. Prior to joining Schilling Law Group, Ms. Vanderlaan Smith practiced for 10 years at Latham & Watkins LLP, a major international law firm. She has successfully represented clients in high-stakes litigation and prelitigation matters involving:

- Employment discrimination claims
- Wage and hour claims
- Breach of restrictive covenant claims
- Groundwater contamination claims
- Product liability claims
- Contract disputes
- Property disputes
- Unfair business practices claims
- Business torts
- Construction defects
- Putative class actions
- Appellate matters

EXPERIENCE

Ms. Vanderlaan Smith has experience in:

- Representing companies facing allegations of discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and wrongful termination
- Representing companies pursuing and defending against claims of trade secret misappropriation and breach of restrictive covenants
- Defending companies against purported wage and hour class actions in state court and in arbitration
- Advising companies on employment matters, including employee handbooks, arbitration agreements, worker classification, employee performance issues, and employee separation
- Representing corporations and individuals in breach of contract disputes, including disputes involving licensing agreements, insurance brokerage agreements, the purchase of businesses, commercial leases and other business contract disputes
- Representing corporations in connection with business torts and Unfair Competition claims

Nicole R. Vanderlaan Smith (continued)

- Representing an oil company in more than a half-dozen state and federal cases involving alleged contamination of groundwater with methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), including numerous cases that were part of a multi-district litigation
- Representing a company in complex litigation concerning alleged contamination of groundwater with volatile organic compounds (VOCs)

IN THE COMMUNITY

Ms. Vanderlaan Smith has provided pro bono legal assistance to at least a dozen clients referred by the Public Law Center and Orange County domestic violence shelters Human Options, Interval House, and Laura's House. She received the Wiley W. Manuel Certificate from the California State Bar in multiple years for contributing more than 50 hours of pro bono services in a year to the Public Law Center. Ms. Vanderlaan Smith formerly served on the Board of Directors of Women's Transitional Living Center.

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

- California State Bar
- Central District of California

MEMBERSHIPS & ASSOCIATIONS

- Orange County Bar Association
- Association of Business Trial Lawyers, Orange County Chapter
- California Alumni Association

EDUCATION

JD, Stanford Law School (2005), where she graduated second in her class and served as an executive editor of the Stanford Law Review

BA, University of California, Berkeley (2001), with high distinction

Complutense University of Madrid (1999-2000), full course load in Spanish