



Melissa Cook Allison

PARTNER

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Overview

For nearly twenty years, Melissa has advised airports across the country, municipalities and state agencies in Massachusetts, and a variety of private sector clients on complex civil litigation, regulatory and administrative matters.

Melissa's areas of focus are:

- **Litigation:** Melissa's litigation experience spans the public and private sectors and several industries. Recent examples include representation of both Los Angeles World Airports and the Massachusetts Port Authority in lawsuits concerning unauthorized operations by "peer to peer" rental car company Turo, Inc. at LAX and Logan airports; defending the City and County of San Francisco in a constitutional challenge to an ordinance expanding health care requirements for workers at SFO; and successfully defending the Massachusetts Gaming Commission in multiple lawsuits challenging the Commission's award of a casino license to Wynn Resorts under the Commonwealth's Expanded Gaming Act. Melissa also has represented municipalities, private entities, and individuals in litigation and other forms of dispute resolution in a range of matters, such as land use, environmental, contract, and civil rights disputes.
- **Airport Law:** Melissa routinely advises airport owners on federal grant compliance. She has facilitated airport owners' resolutions of significant grant disputes with FAA, including, for example, disputes involving the alleged diversion of airport revenue, releases of airport land, and ACDBE and Title VI compliance. Melissa also has defended airport owners across the country in Part 16 proceedings before the FAA.
- **Public Law:** Melissa helps her governmental clients navigate issues related to conflicts of interest, the Public Records Act, the Open Meeting Law, and internal governance.

Melissa is also committed to pro bono and civic matters. Melissa serves on the firm's pro bono committee and looks for opportunities to grow our pro bono work. Most recently, Melissa represented on a pro bono basis several Boston Public School students and various organizations in their efforts to preserve the statutory cap on the number of charter schools in Massachusetts, and ultimately prevailed in the Supreme Judicial Court. Melissa also is a member of the board of Lawyers for Civil Rights.

PRACTICE AREAS

Airports
Litigation
Public Law

CREDENTIALS

Education

Boston College Law School, J.D.

2003 *cum laude*

Senior Articles Editor, *Third World Law Journal*

Bryn Mawr College, B.A.

1999 *magna cum laude*

High Thesis Honors

Admissions

Massachusetts

U.S. District Court, District of Massachusetts

Melissa also has been admitted on particular matters in several courts around the country.

Clerkship

Honorable Joseph R. Goodwin, U.S.

District Court, Southern District of West Virginia

Recognitions

Massachusetts Super Lawyers,
2019-2020