

Melissa L. Romero

Partner

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Lawdragon "Next
Generation" Lawyer

Named to Law
Week Colorado
"Top Women"



Melissa Romero focuses on complex commercial litigation for sophisticated clients across various practice areas. She represents businesses in a wide range of disputes and industries, including franchise, software, aerospace, telecommunications, oil & gas, consumer products and services, and energy sectors. She has substantial experience developing and implementing

national litigation, trial, and settlement strategies, favorably and efficiently resolving disputes prelitigation, taking and defending depositions, managing complex discovery and motions practice, and handling hearings and trials in court and arbitration proceedings. She also has had substantial success securing preliminary and permanent injunctions to protect clients' trade secrets and intellectual property.

“She takes client service to a whole new level.”

– Client comment

Credentials

Education

University of Denver Sturm College of Law, J.D., 2014, *Denver University Law Review*, Executive Board Articles Editor, Chancellor's Scholarship (full tuition), Reese Persuasive Writing Award, Hartje Objective Writing Award, multiple Scholastic Excellence Awards (given to the top law student in each class)

University of Denver, 2014, Masters of Social Work

Colorado College, 2006, B.A., Philosophy; Minor in Spanish

CLERKSHIPS

Law Clerk to The Honorable Christine M. Arguello of the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado

Law Clerk to The Honorable Terry Fox of the Colorado Court of Appeals

OTHER GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Judicial Intern to The Honorable David Furman of the Colorado Court of Appeals

Judicial Intern to The Honorable Angela Arkin, 18th Judicial District (retired)

RECOGNITION

Law Week Colorado

Top Women Honoree, 2026

Lawdragon 500 X - The Next Generation

Honoree, 2026

The Best Lawyers in America

Franchise Law, 2027

Litigation - Labor and Employment, 2027

Ones to Watch - Commercial Litigation, 2021-2025

Ones to Watch - Litigation - Labor and Employment, 2022-2025

Ones to Watch - Product Liability Litigation, 2023-2025

BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

Colorado

Texas

New York

U.S. District Court, D. Colorado

U.S. District Court, D. New Jersey

U.S. District Court, D. New Mexico

LEGAL MEMBERSHIPS

Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center - Former Board Member

Law School...Yes We Can!

Program Mentor

WTO Firm Liaison

Leadership Council on Legal Diversity - Fellow, 2023

Colorado General Counsel Mentor Program - Mentee, 2021-2023

Colorado Women's Bar Association - Member

Our Courts Hispanic Outreach Committee - Member and Volunteer Presenter

TEACHING POSITIONS

DU Graduate School of Social Work

Adjunct Professor, The Law of Family and Child, 2015-2018

Allen Elementary School in Austin, TX

Bilingual Third Grade Teacher, 2006-2010

ARTICLES AND PRESENTATIONS

Spanish-Speaking Presenter and Trainer, "Our Courts/Nuestros Cortes."

Panelist, "Associate in the Hot Seat, preparing for and Supporting at Trial," Wheeler Trigg O'Donnell.

Panelist, "Surprise & Delight: How Marketing & Business Development Professionals Elevate Client Value," Legal Marketing Association Annual Conference.

Practices

Appellate

Commercial Litigation

Employment/Class Actions

Franchise

Cases

COMMERCIAL, FRANCHISE, & EMPLOYMENT

Successfully defended the national franchisor of Radiant Waxing® brand in a \$50 million case that culminated in a two-week bench trial over franchisees' claims for breach of contract and related declaratory judgments.

Secured a preliminary injunction and award of attorneys' fees and costs after a multiday evidentiary hearing for national franchisor of Amazing Lash Studio® brand against franchisees that breached franchise agreements and competed using the franchisor's trade secrets and trademarks.

Secured a judgment in favor of national supplier of aggregates and landscape materials in a multi-million dollar breach of contract case following an eight-day bench trial.

Won a complete victory following a four-day arbitration for the nation's leading beauty and wellness franchisor, which was accused of fraud, franchise disclosure violations, violations of unfair competition laws, and breach of contract. Successfully countersued for breach of contract and trade secret misappropriation, obtained preliminary and permanent injunctions, recovered liquidated damages, and secured an award of attorneys' fees and costs.

Won a directed verdict on a Colorado Wage Claim Act claim and secured voluntary dismissal of defamation and punitive damages claims for a large regional bank the night before closing arguments in a five-day jury trial after four-plus years of litigation.

Won complete summary judgment of all seven claims brought against our commercial client in an employment matter involving unsupported allegations of wrongful termination, retaliation, and age discrimination.

Won a preliminary injunction for a national fitness franchisor against three competing fitness and nutrition studios that had stolen our client's trade secrets, infringed on its trademarks, committed fraud, and breached non-compete obligations.

Obtained favorable settlement for national aerospace organization in a breach of contract case involving over \$90 million in claimed damages.

Favorably settled breach of contract and fraudulent misrepresentation action for real estate professional and entity where plaintiff asserted over \$50 million in claimed damages.

Successfully defended a national telecommunications company in a high-stakes dispute involving unsupported allegations of trade secret theft and unjust enrichment, including by bringing counterclaims for fraud, breach of contract, civil conspiracy, and tortious interference with contract.

Successfully represented a national franchisor in bringing business tort and contract claims against competitor and franchisees arising out of competitor's attempts to poach franchisees.

PROFESSIONAL MALPRACTICE & PRODUCT LIABILITY

Won partial summary judgment and dismissal of product liability claims brought against a national automobile manufacturer based on unsupported allegations of a design defect in the vehicle's occupant restraint system.

Obtained a favorable defense settlement in a medical malpractice case following the first few days of a jury trial. Handled numerous aspects of the trial including witness preparation, motions in limine, depositions, and jury instructions.

PRO BONO

Secured temporary and permanent protection orders for survivors of stalking, harassment, and domestic abuse following disputed evidentiary hearings or through alternative dispute resolution methods.

Won complete administrative closure of removal proceedings, allowing our asylum client and her minor son to remain in the United States with work authorization, indefinitely.

Won a preliminary injunction for our client under the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of Child Abduction, preventing our client's former partner from removing his children from the State of Colorado during the pendency of the Hague matter.

Settled a breach of contract case brought by a national bank against our client on favorable terms, reducing the client's payment to under 12% of the plaintiff's original demand.
