



MICHELE B. FRIEND

Michele Friend handles many of the diverse legal issues facing a business or a trust. Areas of expertise include fiduciary duties, fraud, real estate, business dissolutions, trade secrets, employment, contracts and trademarks. Michele is a trial lawyer that is also skilled in transactional matters. For 20 years, she has navigated numerous outstanding clients through their legal matters. Michele is a shareholder in the firm.

Michele was previously a partner at her firm Kneafsey & Friend LLP. Prior to law school, Michele became licensed as a Certified Public Accountant in the State of Ohio. As an accountant, she managed budgets and finances of commercial properties at a top publicly-traded real estate company, Forest City Enterprises. She maintains her CPA license although she no longer practices accounting. Michele's business experience gives her a unique understanding of the economic concerns of her clients, as well as the financial aspects of their cases.

CONTACT

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PRACTICE AREAS

Business Real Estate
Employment Litigation and Counsel

AFFILIATIONS

- President, American Academy of Attorney-CPAs, Southern California Chapter
- Member, Los Angeles County Bar Association
- Member, Los Angeles and Culver City Chambers of Commerce
- Pro Bono Volunteer, Alliance for Children's Rights

ACCOLADES

- Southern California Super Lawyer Rising Star
- Beverly Hills Bar Association Distinguished Leadership Award
- Beverly Hills Bar Association Lawrence J. Blake Award

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- You Can't Take it with You: Trade Secret Protection and Enforcement

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Charta v. Sary, LexJet, Abaqa: Successfully defended the President of a global manufacturing company accused of stealing Trade Secrets in a jury trial
- Won complete defense verdict and \$1.25 million judgment on cross-complaint in real estate partnership dispute trial
- Patricia Davis Raynes v. Marvin Davis et al.: Successfully defended the President of Davis Companies in a widely-publicized, \$650 million breach of fiduciary duty and fraud action relating to the estate of billionaire Marvin Davis.
- Archdiocese of Los Angeles Education & Welfare Corp. v. California Interscholastic Federation, Won arbitration against CIF re school placement for high school sports competitions
- Counseled several business owners through entity dissolutions and buyouts
- Resolved numerous breach of contract actions for hotel clients
- Resolved numerous employment related disputes for businesses and counseled clients with independent contractor and employee negotiations
- Counseled clients through real estate leases, CAM and landlord/tenant issues
- Resolved numerous breach of contract actions for an out of state company purchasing several businesses in California
- Advised clients on contract negotiations
- Handled trademark prosecution, registration and maintenance with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and related administrative proceedings with the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (TTAB)