

Attorney Bio

Michelle is a partner at the Los Angeles office where her practice is focused on complex civil litigation with an emphasis in medical malpractice defense. She also handles cybersecurity and data privacy matters as a member of the Cybersecurity and Data Privacy Team.

Michelle attended Western State University College of Law, graduating with an Exemplary Public Service Award and a Criminal Law Justice Center Award in 2011. While at Western, Michelle was chosen to be part of the Year One Honors Program (reserved for students in the top 10% of their class), and she received the Witkin Award for Excellence (the highest grade) in Criminal Procedure. During law school, she was a judicial extern for the Honorable Joseph F. De Vanon and a certified law clerk for the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, where she adjudicated a misdemeanor jury trial and over twenty-five preliminary hearings.

Prior to law school, Michelle graduated with Distinguished Honors from Whittier College with a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in History and a minor in Philosophy. While in college, she was chosen to attend Royal Holloway, University of London and completed course work in History.

Education

Western State University College of Law (J.D., 2011)

Whittier College (B.A., 2008)

Licensed to Practice in:

California

Practice Areas

Medical Malpractice and Healthcare Law

- Defense of doctors, dentists, pharmacists, chiropractors and paramedics as well as nursing homes and hospitals on various cases involving claims of negligence, fraud and medical malpractice.

Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices

Professional Liability

- Handles matters which involve allegations of fraud and misrepresentation against professionals.

Michelle A. Birtja

Partner



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Complex Tort and Casualty

- Defense of businesses and individuals in a wide variety of claims, resulting in catastrophic personal injuries.

Cybersecurity and Data Privacy

Blockchain and Cryptocurrency

Trial & Appellate Results

- [*Orange County Jury Returns Defense Verdict in Dental Malpractice Trial*](#)

Awards & Accomplishments

- Super Lawyers Magazine “Southern California Rising Star,” 2019 - 2022

Publications

- “When Good Deeds Go Punished: The Risks Practitioners Face When Assisting Patients in Litigation”, in the CLM’s *Professional Times Magazine*, Summer 2018, Volume 2, Issue 1