

MICHELLE A. BIRTJA

PARTNER



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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.

EXPERIENCE

- Orange County Jury Returns Defense Verdict in Dental Malpractice Trial
11.16.15

HONORS & RECOGNITIONS

- Super Lawyers Magazine "Southern California Rising Star," 2019 - 2023

NEWS

- Eleven WSHB Attorneys Elected Into Partnership
Newsroom, 1.16.20

PRIMARY PRACTICE AREAS

Medical Malpractice and Healthcare Law
Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices
Professional Liability
Legal Malpractice
Complex Tort and Casualty
Cybersecurity and Data Privacy
Blockchain and Cryptocurrency

EDUCATION

Western State University College of Law (J.D., 2011)
Whittier College (B.A., 2008)

LICENSED TO PRACTICE IN

California

MICHELLE A. BIRTJA

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- 17 WSHB Lawyers Honored as 2019's Rising Stars
Newsroom, 7.23.19
- Eight Attorneys Elected to Senior Counsel at WSHB
Newsroom, 1.22.17
- WSHB Announces Medical Malpractice and Healthcare Practice
Newsroom, 6.26.14

PUBLICATIONS

- *When Good Deeds Go Punished: The Risks Practitioners Face When Assisting Patients in Litigation*
Publications, *Professional Times Magazine*, 6.25.18