



Marie R. Westermeier

Senior Attorney

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Marie has more than fifteen years of experience representing clients in litigation and appellate matters in both state and federal courts. She began her career as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Washington, defending higher education clients and other state agencies. In private practice, Marie has focused on defending public and private employers in litigation and counseling them on day-to-day employment issues. She has defended public and private employers in administrative proceedings, in lawsuits brought by individual and multiple employees, and on appeal. Marie counsels clients regarding state and federal antidiscrimination statutes as well as personnel issues, including employment contracts, investigations, and employee discipline and termination. She works with employers to develop and draft employment contracts and employee handbooks, and to enforce non-competition and non-solicitation agreements. Since joining Bennett, Bigelow & Leedom in 2000, Marie has continued to handle employment law matters for public and private employers, as well as a variety of general litigation matters for health care clients and nonprofit organizations.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Attorney, Bennett Bigelow & Leedom, 2000-present

Associate, Karr Tuttle Campbell, 1996-2000

Assistant Attorney General, Washington State Attorney General's Office, 1990-1996

TRIAL EXPERIENCE

Turner v. University of Washington, October 2007, Western District of Washington, non-jury trial involving claims of race and national origin discrimination and retaliation under state and federal law, as well as civil rights violations. Defense verdict.

Pierce County et al v. State of Washington, November 2005, Thurston County Superior Court, non-jury trial. We represented Pierce County in a lawsuit that sought to compel DSHS to fulfill its obligations under its contract with Pierce County and the state mental health statutes. Pierce County obtained an injunction and a judgment in excess of \$1M.

Maksirisombat v. Seattle School District, 1999, King County Superior Court, jury trial. Defended the Seattle School District in race and national origin discrimination claims. Defense verdict.

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Washington State Society of Healthcare Attorneys
- King County Bar Association

EDUCATION

Georgetown University Law Center, J.D.

William Smith College, B.A.

BAR ADMISSIONS

Washington State Bar Association

United States District Court for the Western District of Washington

United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit