

Melanie S. Carter | Partner

Business Litigation

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Melanie Carter concentrates her practice in complex commercial and corporate matters. She has experience counseling clients on a wide range of business issues, such as: corporate litigation and business disputes, including breach of contract, fraud, and other business torts; real estate issues; constitutional litigation; energy litigation; multidistrict litigation; and mass tort litigation.

She also regularly represents pharmaceutical companies in national state and federal products liability cases.

Melanie began her legal career as a federal law clerk to the Honorable Joel H. Slomsky of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

While in law school, Melanie served as Executive Articles and Symposium Editor with the *Temple Political & Civil Rights Law Review*. She also served as a judicial intern to the Honorable J. Curtis Joyner of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Prior to law school, Melanie worked in public education through Teach For America.

Melanie chairs the firm's Philadelphia Attorney Recruiting and Retention Committee and sits on the firm's Alumni Committee. She co-chaired the Philadelphia 2017, 2018, and 2019 Summer Associate Programs.

Outside The Firm

Melanie enjoys hiking and playing the piano, and is a certified Reiki Master.

Select Engagements

- National litigation counsel for a global branded and generic drug manufacturer for product liability claims related to the use of opioids, including personal injury and wrongful death claims consolidated in the *In re: National Prescription Opiate Litigation MDL 2804*.
- Successfully defended opioid manufacturer in an addiction case in New York state court.
- Secured multiple trial wins on behalf of commercial real estate property owners bringing constitutional claims against taxing authorities.
- Reached settlement on behalf of national parts manufacturer in defense of contract and products-related claims.
- Secured mandamus on behalf of a candidate for U.S. Congress in a newly redrawn district.
- Reached settlement on behalf of a public utility company in complex administrative law litigation relating to pipeline regulation.
- Second-chaired a two-week federal arbitration bringing contract and products-related claims on behalf of a food company against a distributor.
- A global energy and petrochemical company, in a land-use appeal.
- An international food company, defended in a complex maritime matter.
- Shielded partnership client from litigation risks relating to civil and criminal allegations through an internal investigation.
- A performance fabrics and textiles manufacturer, to enforce non-compete obligations of high-level employees in federal arbitration.
- A former Chief Compliance Officer of a money services business, defended against claims brought by the U.S. Department of Treasury.
- A public utility company, in breach of contract proceedings in federal court and before a panel of federal arbitrators.
- A pipeline logistics company, in proceedings before a state regulatory agency.
- A manager of a joint venture, defended against a foreign shell entity in federal court proceedings.
- A software as a services company, in breach of contract claims in federal arbitration.

Admissions

- Pennsylvania
- United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
- U.S. District Court - Eastern District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court - Middle District of Pennsylvania

Memberships

- American Bar Association
- Philadelphia Bar Association
- Pennsylvania Bar Association
- Temple Law Alumni Association
- Barristers' Association of Philadelphia

Education

- Butler University, BA, cum laude; High Honors in Music; Honors in German
- Temple University Beasley School of Law, JD

Recognitions

- 2023–2024, Ones to Watch, Corporate Law and Product Liability - Defendants, listed in *Best Lawyers in America*®
- 2022, Diversity in Business Awards Honoree, listed in *Philadelphia Business Journal*
- 2017–2021, Pennsylvania “Rising Star” in Business Litigation, listed in *Super Lawyers*®
- 2021, “Best of the Bar: Business Litigation,” listed in the *Philadelphia Business Journal*
- 2016, “Who’s Next Law,” listed in *Billy Penn*
- 2015, “Lawyer on the Fast Track,” listed in *The Legal Intelligencer*

Professional Activities

Education, community, and diversity matters are important to Melanie. She is a member of the Board of Trustees for KIPP Administrative Services Corporation, the management organization for KIPP Philadelphia Schools. She is a past member of the Board of Directors of the Education Law Center of Pennsylvania.

Melanie has served the federal court system. She is serving a three-year term on the Third Circuit Lawyers Advisory Committee, and in 2020 she was designated by the Eastern District of Pennsylvania to serve on a panel to review a magistrate judge for reappointment.

In May 2018, Melanie had the distinct honor of welcoming new American citizens by speaking at a naturalization ceremony at the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Melanie is active in the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity (“LCLD”) and represented Blank Rome as a Fellow in 2021 and a Pathfinder in 2017.

Melanie is a past member of the Executive Committee of the Young Lawyers Division of the Philadelphia Bar Association, and a past Financial Secretary of the Executive Committee’s Cabinet.

Melanie has received Blank Rome’s Pro Bono Awards for providing over 65 hours of service in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2019, and in 2014 was recognized with the Blank Rome Pro Bono Hero Award for her work on behalf of indigent clients, including a client facing life imprisonment and seeking a new trial under the Pennsylvania Post-Conviction Relief Act, and clients served through the Nationalities Services Center, the Red Cross of Southeastern Pennsylvania, and the

SeniorLAW Center. She recently successfully obtained dismissal with prejudice on behalf of a client facing allegations that she caused a car accident. Her current pro bono efforts include representation of individuals seeking compassionate release.