



MELISSA MURO LAMERE

Associate

melissa.murolamere@maslon.com

Phone: 612.672.8368 | Fax: 612.642.8368

OVERVIEW

Melissa Muro LaMere is a business litigation attorney who enjoys working with clients to protect their business assets in a competitive marketplace. She focuses her practice on employment matters and business disputes involving non-competition and non-solicitation agreements, trade secrets, business contracts and torts, and unfair competition and trade practices. Melissa also maintains a robust pro bono practice, primarily serving as counsel to the American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota in litigation involving individual constitutional rights and government transparency. She serves on the boards of the Minnesota Hispanic Bar Association, for which she is also the current co-chair of the Judicial Endorsements Committee, and the Minnesota Infinity Project, an organization focused on gender disparity on the bench throughout the Eighth Circuit. Melissa is a member of Maslon's Diversity Committee, co-chair of Maslon's Diverse Attorney Resource Group, and is recognized as a 2019 "Top Lawyer Under 40" by the Hispanic National Bar Association.

Melissa is a *cum laude* graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School, where she was a managing editor of the *Minnesota Journal of International Law* and student director of the Human Rights Litigation & International Legal Advocacy Clinic. During law school Melissa was also active in the Minnesota Hispanic Bar Association Mentorship Program and Latino Law Student Alliance. She received her undergraduate degree in economics with quantitative emphasis from the University of Minnesota. Before becoming an attorney, Melissa held various positions in the Office of U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar.

SELECTED EXPERIENCE

- *Medtronic Sofamor Danek, Inc. v. Gannon*, 913 F.3d 704, 2019 WL 138707 (8th Cir. Jan. 9, 2019). Successfully argued and obtained affirmance of district court order remanding dispute based on forum selection clause. In a published opinion the Eighth Circuit held that contemporaneously executed offer letter, employee agreement, and repayment agreement comprised a single contract, such that forum selection clause in employee

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Litigation

- Business Litigation
- Competitive Practices/Unfair Competition
- Employment Litigation
- Tort & Product Liability

Labor & Employment

BAR ADMISSIONS

Minnesota

U.S. District Court

- Minnesota

U.S. Court of Appeals

- First Circuit
- Eighth Circuit

EDUCATION

University of Minnesota Law School
J.D., *cum laude*, 2012

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
B.A., 2009

Major: Economics with quantitative emphasis

agreement governed disputes arising out of or related to any of the three documents.

- *State v. Nichols*, No. A18-0479, 2018 WL 5117004 (Minn. Ct. App. Oct. 22, 2018), *rev. denied*, A18-0479 (Minn. Jan. 15, 2019). Obtained affirmance of trial court order suppressing all evidence against criminal defendant based on law enforcement officers' failure to provide him with a Miranda warning during custodial interrogation.
- *Works Computing, Inc., v. Peterson, et al.*, No. 27-CV-18-2772, 2018 WL 2137637 (Minn. Dist. Ct., filed Feb. 28, 2018). Argued and obtained temporary restraining order barring former employee from further breaching restrictive covenants by soliciting client's customers and employees on behalf of new employer. Successfully argued motion to amend complaint to add similar claims against additional former employee. Negotiated and obtained favorable settlement on behalf of client.
- *Works Computing, Inc. v. Peterson*, 2018 WL 1247391 (D. Minn. March 9, 2018). Successfully obtained remand of non-compete dispute case to state court.
- *Werner v. Works Computing, Inc.*, (D. Neb. May 31, 2018). Obtained dismissal of non-compete dispute based on forum selection clause in employment agreement.
- *Otto v. Wright County*, 2018 WL 1833098 (Minn. April 18, 2018). Represented 17 amici curiae in case involving application of the Single Subject and Title Clause of Minnesota Constitution.
- *Valspar Corporation v. Sherman*, 2016 WL 5477076 (D. Minn. Sept. 28, 2016). Successfully obtained remand of non-compete dispute to state court, based on forum selection clause in Defendant's employment agreement, which constituted a "clear and unequivocal" waiver of his right to remove to federal court.
- *Bison Advisors LLC v. Kessler*, 2016 WL 4415036 (D. Minn. Aug. 18, 2016). Successfully obtained partial summary judgment in trade secret/non-compete dispute involving stock trading.
- On numerous occasions, assisted the Maslon team in resolving disputes related to noncompete agreements on behalf of major medical device manufacturer.
- Obtained a favorable settlement for client after extensive discovery revealed that its former employees had misappropriated confidential information for the benefit of their new employer.

Pro Bono & Legal Community

- **ABA Pro Bono Death Penalty Representation:** *Ex parte Armstrong* (Tex. Crim. App. 2017). Member of team of Maslon lawyers serving as pro bono counsel for Douglas Tyrone Armstrong, a Texas death row inmate convicted of capital murder in 2006. The team successfully secured the vacation of Armstrong's death sentence by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.
- **ACLU-MN:** Melissa volunteers as a member of the team of Maslon attorneys serving as pro bono co-counsel with the American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota in a lawsuit against Minnesota's Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and the Minnesota Department of Public Safety to force the release of all squad camera video(s) documenting the police killing of Philando Castile in July 2016. She has represented the ACLU of Minnesota in other pro-bono matters as well, including matters related to enforcing the civil rights of individuals and as amicus with respect to the interpretation of the Minnesota State Constitution.
- **Latino Legal Experience:** Melissa was appointed by The Honorable Michael J. Davis to a committee tasked with organizing an event to highlight the contributions of the Latino community to the legal landscape in Minnesota. The remarkable event featured U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor in conversation with Latino middle and high school students at the Minnesota History Center in October 2016.

LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY

- Minnesota Commission on Judicial Selection: Fourth Judicial District Member 2019-2023
- Minnesota Infinity Project: Board Member 2016-present
- Minnesota Hispanic Bar Association: Board Member 2013-present, Treasurer 2015-2017, Secretary 2013-2014; Judicial Endorsements Committee, Co-Chair 2017-2018
- Hispanic National Bar Association
- Federal Bar Association – Minnesota Chapter
- ABA Death Penalty Representation Project: Pro Bono Attorney Volunteer

- American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota: Pro Bono Attorney Volunteer
- Latino Legal Experience: Pro Bono Attorney Volunteer
- ABA Collaborative Bar Leadership Academy: Summer 2015

SELECTED HONORS

- **Top Lawyers Under 40 Award**, Hispanic National Bar Association, 2019
- **Recognized on Minnesota Rising Stars list as part of the Super Lawyers® selection process**, 2019 (*Minnesota Rising Stars is a designation given to only 2.5 percent of Minnesota attorneys each year, based on a selection process that includes the recommendation of peers in the legal profession.*)
- **Light of Justice Award**, Texas Defender Service, 2018
- **Up & Coming Attorney**, Minnesota Lawyer, 2017
- **Labor & Employment Star – Midwest**, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2017
- **North Star Lawyer**, Minnesota State Bar Association, 2012-2013, 2016-2017 (*North Star Lawyer is a designation that recognizes members who provide 50 hours or more of pro bono legal services in a calendar year.*)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- "2018 Cybersecurity Year in Review: Technological and Legal Highlights," 2019
- "Professional Ethics & the Multi-Jurisdictional Client," 2018
- "The Interplay Between Noncompete Agreements and Trade Secrets Law: Protecting the Assets that Drive Your Business," *Contracts in Context II*, ACC Minnesota, 2017