



Mayra de Aguiar

SENIOR COUNSEL

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Mayra's Biography

Mayra de Aguiar has honed the ability to efficiently compose winning narratives and craft innovative, effective trial plans over her nearly 20 years of practice. As a result, she is particularly skilled in last-minute trial preparation.

A seasoned litigator at both the trial and appellate levels, Mayra's practice focuses on contract disputes, complex civil litigation, class action litigation, product liability, and employment litigation. She has represented every side of litigation—plaintiff, defense, and in-house counsel—with clients ranging from individual plaintiffs, to mom-and-pop shops, to Fortune 500 companies.

Mayra's clients span a wide range of industries, including consumer goods, accounting and finance, technology, film and entertainment, and hospitality. She has particular experience representing Fortune 500 companies and global corporations in national product liability lawsuits. Recently, Mayra helped defeat over a dozen class action lawsuits filed across the U.S. alleging product contamination against a Fortune 500 company.

Earlier in her career, Mayra covered facets of the entertainment industry, representing celebrities including Robert Wagner, Alan Alda, and David Duchovny in royalty disputes. She also represented Blockbuster, Inc. in major litigation against The Walt Disney Company, obtaining a favorable post-arbitration settlement which allowed the parties to continue their

Education

University of Chicago Law School, J.D.,
1999

University of California, Los Angeles,
B.A., 1995

Bar Admissions

Admitted to the State Bar of California

United States District Court for the
Central District of California

United States District Court for the
Northern District of California

United States District Court for the
Southern District of California

business relationship for years to follow. After practicing in a large firm, Mayra followed her entrepreneurial spirit and opened her own firm. As a solo practitioner, she gained trial experience in cases ranging from personal injury to medical malpractice; this gave her a keen understanding of the resourcefulness, preparation, and strategy it takes to be a successful trial lawyer.

Mayra has also developed extensive experience in individual employment claims and wage and hour class actions, serving as both the defense and prosecution. Her experience representing individual plaintiffs against their employers provides her with a unique understanding of her adversaries, allowing her to construct the most effective approach in defending employers. Serving as lead defense counsel for two large representative actions brought under the Private Attorneys General Act gave Mayra considerable knowledge of the types of claims that have greatly affected employers across the state, causing a recent surge in employment cases in California.

Prior to joining Willenken, Mayra served as in-house counsel for The Wonderful Company, a multibillion-dollar food industry giant. She spends her spare time with her two teenage children and a house full of four-legged creatures, including the shelter dogs she fosters. Tapping into her creative side, Mayra enjoys reading, painting, cooking, and playing the guitar.

Honors

- *Super Lawyers*, “Rising Star” (2005)

Winning Matters

- **Willenken Vigorously Defends Electric Vehicle Start-Up Team Against Aggressive Opponent**

Cases

The following is a representative sample of Mayra’s casework:

- ***Individual Consumers v. National Discount Tool and Equipment Retailer***. Aided in motion work and trial preparation on behalf of a national discount tool and equipment retailer in a product liability lawsuit in which three plaintiffs alleged that our client sold a defective

Practice Areas

Complex Commercial Litigation

Product Liability

Class Action Defense

Entertainment Litigation

Last Minute Trial Representation



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product that caused permanent, disfiguring injuries.

- **Major Automotive Lighting Manufacturer v. Former Executives.** Obtained a favorable settlement for a major manufacturer of automotive lighting and accessories against a former officer and director for conversion and breach of fiduciary duty, wherein the client was able to obtain full restoration.
- **Major Banking Institution v. Individual.** Obtained a favorable settlement of a case against a major banking institution accusing our client of fraudulent conveyance, managing to negotiate a \$400,000 payment on behalf of our client for a close to \$10 million claim.
- **Nascent Electric Vehicle Company v. Former Employees.** Represented nine executives and employees, and helped successfully resolve allegations of trade secret misappropriation, violation of non-solicitation obligations, and breach of fiduciary duties relating to the formation of a new electric vehicle start-up after they resigned from a competitor company.
- **Freight Forwarding Company v. Former Executive.** Represents a successful player in the freight forwarding industry against his former employer in a misappropriation of trade secrets case, in which we uncovered illegal hacking of our clients' emails and have successfully moved to amend our claims to add causes of action for violations of the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, the Stored Communications Act, and California Penal Code section 502.
- **Leading Manufacturer of Insulated Water Bottles v. Product Distributor.** Represents a leading manufacturer of insulated water bottles in a breach of contract and misappropriation of trade secret dispute with Lindsay Hatcher Co. and individual defendants with respect to its misappropriated product.

Professional Affiliations

- California Lawyers Association, Intellectual Property Law, *Member*
- Los Angeles County Bar Association, *Member*
- Latina Lawyers Bar Association, *Member*



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