



Melissa M. Grand

MEMBER

Melissa Grand is an experienced litigation attorney and has represented businesses in Louisiana federal courts and judicial district courts across the state and at the appellate level. Melissa has litigated cases in the Eastern, Middle, and Western Districts of Louisiana and the U.S. Fifth Circuit. She also has extensive experience practicing in Louisiana district courts and Louisiana courts of appeal.

Consumer Financial Services Litigation

Melissa's consumer finance litigation practice focuses on representing mortgage lenders, banks, and financial services clients in all manner of mortgage-related issues. Her experience includes handling claims involving the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA), Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA), Truth in Lending Act (TILA), contested foreclosures, and actions related to unfair and deceptive trade practices. Melissa also regularly handles tax title recovery claims on behalf of national mortgage lenders.

Education Law

Melissa has extensive experience representing charter schools, charter school management organizations, private schools, and other educational institutions in all aspects of education law. Melissa has significant experience defending educational institutions in a variety of litigation matters in state and federal courts. She is well-versed in Louisiana ethics laws and advises her education clients on open meetings laws and board policies, best practices, handbooks, and manuals. Her experience also extends to special education issues, including the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and discipline issues. Melissa advises her school clients in a variety of complex contract negotiations and real estate transactions, as well as student issues including student handbooks, drug and alcohol policies, student privacy, discipline, student/technology issues, student records, and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Melissa devotes her community involvement to the education field through her service on the board of directors of THRIVE, a legislatively authorized boarding school in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Commercial Litigation

In addition to her education law and consumer financial services practice, Melissa represents large and small companies in complex litigation matters such as contract issues, construction litigation, and other commercial disputes.

Representative Matters

- *Bourgeois v. Valero Energy Corp.*, No. CV 16-00494, 2016 WL 7443679 (W.D. La. Dec. 23, 2016)
- *Brock v. Dean Morris, L.L.P.*, No. CV 15-2416, 2016 WL 4150846, at *1 (W.D. La. Aug. 3, 2016)
- *Jackson v. Bank of America, N.A.*, No. CV 15-00346-JJB-EWD, 2017 WL 1173933, at *1 (M.D. La. Mar. 28, 2017)
- *Nationstar Mortgage LLC v. Parham*, 51,102 (La. App. 2 Cir. 2/15/17)
- *Saragusa v. Countrywide*, No. CV 14-2717, 2016 WL 1059004 (E.D. La. Mar. 17, 2016)
- *Victor v. Community Bancorp of Louisiana, Inc.*, No. CIV.A. 09-3213, 2010 WL 4103063, at *1 (E.D. La. Oct. 18, 2010)

Professional Affiliations

- American Bar Association, Section of Litigation; Business Torts and Unfair Competition Committee, Co-Chair, Unfair Trade Practices Subcommittee, 2015 to date
- Baton Rouge Bar Association, Holiday Star Committee, 2014 to date; Chair-Elect, Holiday Star Committee, 2016
- Louisiana State Bar Association

Service Areas

- Appellate
- Commercial Litigation
- Consumer Financial Services Litigation
- Education Law

Education

Louisiana State University
Paul M. Hebert Law Center,
J.D., D.C.L., 2009, Louisiana
Law Review (Board of
Editors, Senior Editor)

Louisiana State University,
B.A., English Literature,
2005, *cum laude*, Dean's
List

Admissions

- Louisiana
- Louisiana Supreme Court
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana
- U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

Office

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* indicates primary office

Honors

- *Louisiana Super Lawyers* "Rising Star" (Business Litigation), 2018, 2019
- *Louisiana Super Lawyers* "Rising Star" (Schools and Education), 2019

Community and Other Activities

- Baton Rouge Area Chamber Leadership Class of 2018
- THRIVE Baton Rouge, Secretary and Member of the Board of Directors, 2015–2017
- THRIVE Foundation, Member of the Board of Directors, 2017–present
- Boys Hope Girls Hope of Baton Rouge, Chair, Board of Directors and President, 2014; Board of Directors, Secretary, 2013; Board of Directors, 2011–2013
- Capital Area United Way, Community Impact Cabinet, At-Large Member

Recent Publications

- September 25, 2018 [U.S. Fifth Circuit Holds that Louisiana Charter Schools are Subject to the NLRA](#)
On September 21, 2018, the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that a Louisiana charter school is subject to the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) like most other privately controlled employers.
McGlinchey Education Law Alert
- March 16, 2018 [Louisiana Supreme Court Issues Landmark School Decision](#)
The Louisiana Supreme Court issued a landmark decision on March 13, 2018, upholding the constitutionality of the allocation of state and local Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) funding to New Type 2 charter schools pursuant to La. Const. art. VIII, § 13. *Iberville Parish Sch. Bd. v. Louisiana State Bd. of Elementary & Secondary Educ.*, No. 2017-C-0257 slip op. (La. March 13, 2018).
McGlinchey Labor & Employment Alert
- 2013 and 2014 [Strategic Alternatives For and Against Distressed Businesses](#)
chapter author for Louisiana on Receiverships, a West Treatise
- 2009 [Protecting Granny: Recent Developments in Nursing Home Litigation in Louisiana](#)
Louisiana Law Review

Events

- June 20, 2019 [Employment Law - Bottom Line Training](#)
Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools (LAPCS)
Monroe, LA
- June 3, 2019 [Webinar: Fallout from the College Admissions Scandal](#)
12:00 p.m. ET / 11:00 a.m. CT / 9:00 a.m. PT

Webinar
- May 7 & 9, 2019 [The Top Special Education Legal Mistakes \(and How to Avoid Them\)](#)
National Business Institute (NBI) Seminars
Baton Rouge and New Orleans, LA
- December 14, 2018 [Exploring the Hypothetical of Common Charter Legal Woes](#)
LAPCS 11th Annual Louisiana Charter Schools Conference

New Orleans, LA

- November 8, 2018 [Louisiana Law Outside of New Orleans](#)
Tulane Law School
New Orleans, LA
- October 15, 2018 [Protecting Student Data in an \(Un\)Secure World](#)
Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS) - Annual Conference
Charleston, SC
- June 25, 2018 [Essential Components of a 504 Plan](#)
"Special Education Law From A to Z"
National Business Institute Seminar
Baton Rouge, LA
- November 2, 2017 [Negotiation Ethics and Professionalism Seminar](#)
Women's Initiative Network
Baton Rouge, LA

News Results

- January 4, 2019 [Twenty-three McGlinchey Stafford Attorneys Named to Louisiana Super Lawyers 2019](#)
McGlinchey News Release
- January 3, 2019 [McGlinchey Stafford Promotes Three New Members in 2019](#)
McGlinchey News Release
- December 28, 2017 [Twenty-Six McGlinchey Stafford Attorneys Recognized in Louisiana Super Lawyers 2018](#)
McGlinchey News Release
- March 24, 2015 [McGlinchey Stafford Adds Four Attorneys in Louisiana](#)
McGlinchey News Release