



Tara C. Dudum

Associate

tara.dudum@ndlf.com

Walnut Creek, CA: 925-988-3219

Tara Dudum is an associate with Newmeyer Dillion's Walnut Creek office. A native to the Bay Area, Tara is passionate about helping her community solve its most pressing legal issues. Surrounded by a family of self-starters and entrepreneurs, she is always mindful of the unique challenges and burdens faced by businesses, employers, and property owners and is passionate about moving them through those often uncharted waters safely.

Tara's practice focuses primarily on business and employment law and her clients span across industries, including retail, e-commerce, real estate, manufacturing, hospitality, and beyond. She often acts as outside counsel for clients, providing day-to-day legal advice to owners, executives, supervisors, and human resource professionals.

Tara's practice is grounded in a client-centered approach, in which she prioritizes client communication above all else. She understands that only when she is armed with critical insights gained through direct and continuous client engagement can true value be delivered to her clients' businesses and lives. This approach allows her to craft legal solutions tailored to her clients' specific business needs and goals, both immediate and long-term, without sacrificing efficiency. No matter the legal issue, Tara strives to provide every client with superior, innovative, and effective legal counsel.

Employment Counseling & Litigation

Tara provides day-to-day counseling to employers on a variety of human resource matters such as classification issues, wage and hour disputes, leaves of absence, accommodations, and employee hiring, discipline and termination. She seeks to mitigate her clients' risks by staying abreast of ever-changing employment laws and advising clients on employment practices and policies before issues arise. Tara's counseling frequently extends beyond drafting into the actual implementation of employment policies, guiding executives, human resource professionals, and supervisors throughout the process.

Her thoughtful and practical approach to employment matters has enabled clients to avoid disputes that would have otherwise resulted in litigation. When faced with litigation, Tara works efficiently, while striving to deliver superior results through mediation, arbitration, and trial, if necessary.

Tara has also successfully defended clients before numerous administrative agencies and appellate boards, including the Department of Labor Standards Enforcement, Workers Compensation Appeals Board, Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board, Department of Fair Employment and Housing, US Department of Labor, and US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Intellectual Property

Tara focuses on brand protection and works extensively with clients to help secure, maintain, and protect their intellectual property. She helps identify opportunities to strengthen the value of her clients' intellectual property assets, including trademarks, copyrights, and trade secrets, and works vigorously to enforce clients' intellectual property rights in the global market.

Tara understands the unique challenges facing companies seeking to protect their copyrights online and has extensive experience in effectively protecting copyrights through pre-litigation claims and utilization of Digital Millennium Copyright Act notices.

Tara has prosecuted numerous trademark applications and assisted clients through trademark litigation and the negotiation of co-existence agreements.

Business Counseling & Litigation

Tara partners with her clients to bring their ideas and goals to fruition. Tara often serves as outside general counsel for businesses and works to identify potential issues and provide practical and innovative solutions.

Her business counseling practice includes business formation and compliance, corporate governance and restructuring, preparation of agreements for commercial transactions and the protection of proprietary information. She also counsels clients on various business certifications that can further serve and strengthen their long-term goals, including women and minority-owned business certifications.

Tara has represented business owners in pre-litigation and litigation involving claims of breach of fiduciary duties, unfair competition, trade secret misappropriation, breach of contract, and fraud.

Tara has also represented commercial and residential property owners in unlawful detainer proceedings and counseled clients through product recalls with the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Services

- Labor & Employment
- Intellectual Property - Trademarks & Licensing
- Business Litigation

- Business Transactions

Admissions

- California, 2014

Education

- University of San Francisco School of Law (*J.D.*, 2014)
 - Certificate in Business Law
- San Francisco State University (*B.A.*, 2009)

Successes

Won Appeal to Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board Resulting in Reversal of Finding of an Employment Relationship for Entire Category of Workers

Appealed Employment Development Department's finding of an employment relationship between employer-client and an entirety category of its workers, which determination would have been detrimental to the client's ability to operate. Tara crafted an innovative legal argument for her client, which resulted in a three judge panel of the Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board unanimously deciding to reverse the findings of the EDD, determining that the workers were independent contractors and not employees.

Secured On-Air Corrective Action by a National Television Broadcast Company in Response to Infringement of Client's Copyrights

Following infringement of client's unregistered copyrighted works on-air during a nationally-televised broadcast, Tara quickly secured corrective action from the national television broadcast company in the form of an on-air promotion of client's retail business during a special broadcast feature on holiday shopping.

Led Manufacturing Client through Voluntary Product Recall with United States Consumer Product Safety Commission

After learning of a potential defect in her client's product, Tara counseled the client through the entirety of a months-long product recall process with the US Product Safety Commission and collaborated with the client on related business decisions, including public relations, operational concerns, and preventative measures to mitigate future risk.

Publications

May 14, 2020

Steps Employers Should Take Now in Response to the Workers' Compensation Presumption of Coverage for COVID-19

April 23, 2020

California Courts Call a "Time Out" During COVID-19 –New Emergency Court Rules on Civil Litigation

February 13, 2020

The CROWN Act Makes an Oscars Debut: What to Know about California's Newest Racially Inclusive Workplace Law

Events

January 23, 2020

ND 2020 Annual Seminar