



Brendan A. Melander

PARTNER

PHOENIX, AZ

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OVERVIEW

Brendan offers clients personalized service in employment and commercial litigation matters.

Brendan is a litigator with an emphasis on employment disputes, such as discrimination and retaliation claims, trade secrets and misappropriation, and wage and hour issues. His practice includes advising clients on a broad range of employment concerns. Brendan also represents clients in complex commercial matters. His experience spans a variety of industries, with frequent work for transportation and aviation clients. Brendan also represents clients in the healthcare sphere.

Brendan regularly represents clients in federal and state courts, against administrative actions, and during arbitration. With a winning record, he secures substantial victories for clients. Some recent representative results include a multi-million-dollar arbitration award, a directed verdict during bench trial, multiple summary judgments, and reversals upon appeal.

Brendan views law as a people-driven field. He's enthusiastic about opportunities to interact with clients and build long-term relationships, and he believes it is important to formulate a meticulous understanding of the individuals surrounding each legal issue. Known for his ability to develop rapport on both sides of a case, he can often achieve a favorable resolution quickly—but he's never afraid to zealously litigate. Brendan has a reputation not only for knowing the law and offering creative strategies, but for always outworking the other side.

Industries

Manufacturing

Technology

Transportation

Services

Class Action Defense

Commercial Litigation

Employment Class & Collective Actions

Employment Litigation Defense

Labor & Employment

Litigation & Alternative Dispute Resolution

Brendan serves as hiring chair for the Phoenix office. He is passionate about growing the firm's presence in Arizona, and about cultivating and mentoring young associates.

Experience

- Secured a \$2.2+ million award for an aviation client following a complex and contentious six-day binding arbitration.
- Achieved an appellate victory on behalf of a construction company client in the Arizona Court of Appeals. After initially prevailing during binding arbitration, the client's award was improperly vacated by the Maricopa County Superior Court. The Arizona Court of Appeals reversed and remanded the case back to the Superior Court with instructions to confirm the lawfully obtained award. The case concluded with a published opinion, establishing Arizona precedent. *Chayce Concrete, LLC v. Path Constr. Sw., LLC*, 258 Ariz. 426, 559 P.3d 646 (App. 2024), as amended (Oct. 24, 2024).
- Won summary judgment in a disability discrimination case for healthcare client.
- Defended a transportation client against a wage claim during a bench trial. The court granted Brendan's oral motion for directed verdict from the bench.
- Prevailed during summary judgment in a discrimination and retaliation matter for a transportation client.

Recognition

- *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America*
 - Commercial Litigation, 2026 and 2027
 - Labor and Employment Law - Management, 2026 and 2027
 - Litigation - Labor and Employment, 2026 and 2027
- Thomson Reuters' *Southwest Super Lawyers*, Rising Star, 2024-2026

Education

- J.D., Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law
 - *Sports & Entertainment Law Journal*
- B.S., Arizona State University
 - *magna cum laude*

Admissions

- Arizona
- U.S. District Court, District of Arizona
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit



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