



## AMY ABDO

*Director*

**P** 602.916.5399

**E** amy@fennemorelaw.com

Phoenix, Arizona

A seasoned trial attorney, Amy represents leading law firms and attorneys in the defense of professional liability claims, drawing upon her substantial courtroom experience. Amy brings a results-oriented commitment to every matter from day one. Her approach is pragmatic, strategic, organized and efficient. Adept at leading legal teams, she has wide-ranging experience in business litigation, professional liability defense, attorney ethics, employment law, public records law, and complex e-discovery issues.

Amy is licensed to practice in Arizona, Nevada and California. She is experienced in all phases of litigation including bench and jury trials, arbitration, mediation, administrative proceedings and investigations. Amy represents businesses in complex commercial matters, and she frequently litigates covenants not to compete and other restrictive covenants, often in compressed evidentiary proceedings. She defends employers against discrimination, harassment, breach of contract, wrongful discharge and employment-related tort claims. Amy counsels employers on personnel policies, investigations, and related employment issues, including offer letters, executive employment agreements, independent contractor agreements, separation agreements, confidentiality agreements, non-competition and non-solicitation agreements.

Amy represents businesses in litigation arising under Arizona's public records law. She also counsels litigants on e-discovery matters, including document management, preservation, litigation holds, document analysis and discovery of electronically stored information. Amy has also represented the administrative arm of a jurisdiction's highest court on employment issues.

A natural leader, Amy has served in several leadership positions at Fennemore Craig and in the community. At Fennemore Craig, Amy was a nominated member of the five-person management committee, chaired the Litigation Section, and served on the compensation committee. Amy's leadership in the community includes service as former Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of Christian Family Care Agency. In recognition of her service to the community, Amy was included in a select all-women group of business and religious leaders who were invited to the White House as community ambassadors.

### EDUCATION

- J.D., University of San Diego School of Law
- B.S., with distinction, San Diego State University

### AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Attorney Ethics
- Business Litigation
- Business Torts
- Commercial Contingency Litigation
- eDiscovery and Data Management
- Employment and Labor
- Litigation
- Professional Liability
- Public Records Law
- Tort and Insurance Litigation

## REPRESENTATIVE CASES

- Secured defense verdict on legal malpractice claims, and a seven-figure award of attorneys' fees on a counterclaim, following a 12-day jury trial (Maricopa County Superior Court).
- Secured judgment in favor of private entity prohibiting production of records under Arizona's public records laws.
- Published Opinions: *Malcolm v. Farmers New World Life Insurance Company* (1992) 4 Cal. App. 4th 296 (life insurance case) and *Smith v. Superior Court* (1993) 10 Cal. App. 4th 1033 (legal malpractice).
- Bench trial to enforce restrictive covenants, settled mid-trial, for over \$2.5 million in favor of client (U.S. District Court - Nevada).
- Two-week jury trial on claims for sexual harassment, discrimination, wrongful termination, retaliation and interference with contract (U.S. District Court - Tucson) - defense verdict.
- One-week jury trial on harassment and discrimination claims (U.S. District Court - Nevada) - defense verdict.
- One-week jury trial on pregnancy discrimination and wrongful termination claims (U.S. District Court - Phoenix) - defense verdict.
- Non-suit of harassment, discrimination and retaliation claims (U.S. District Court - Nevada).
- Secured temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction against departing employee and competitor (U.S. District Court - Central District of California, Southern Division).
- Secured preliminary and permanent injunction against departing employee and competitor (U.S. District Court - Nevada).
- Dissolved temporary restraining order and defeated motion for preliminary injunction sought against departing employee (Maricopa County Superior Court).
- Various summary judgments on employment-related and other claims.
- Numerous restraining orders and injunctions secured to enforce restrictive covenants.
- Numerous no-cause findings on charges filed with EEOC, ACRD, NERC and NMHRD.
- Bench trial for plaintiff to enforce commercial contract (U.S. District Court – Central District of California, Southern Division) – judgment for plaintiff in excess of \$1,000,000.
- One-week jury trial for plaintiff in equine litigation against an insurance company and insurance broker (U.S. District Court - Central District of California) - plaintiff's verdict.
- Secured dismissal of defamation action against dentists and professional organization (District Court - Nevada).
- Secured summary judgments for national life insurance companies on disability/ERISA claims (U.S. District Court - Nevada).
- Trial-styled arbitration - defense on defamation and slander claims (Ventura County Superior Court).
- Summary Judgment on abuse of process and malicious prosecution claims (Pima County Superior Court).

## AWARDS AND HONORS

- *Chambers USA*, Leading Lawyers for Business, 2020-2021
- *Southwest Super Lawyers*®, Top 25 Women in Arizona, 2020-2021
- *Southwest Super Lawyers*®, Business Litigation, 2017-2021
- *Best Lawyers in America*®, Commercial Litigation, Employment Law Management, Legal Malpractice Law – Defendants, Litigation – Labor and Employment, Professional Malpractice Law - Defendants, 2014-2022
- Top 100 Lawyers, *AZ Business Magazine*, 2020
- *Benchmark Litigation*, Local Litigation Star, 2016-2019

- Selected, "Most Influential Women in Arizona Business," *AZ Business Magazine*, 2015
- bizAZ's, "Up-And-Coming-Attorneys," 2005
- AV<sup>®</sup> Preeminent™ Peer Review Rated (the highest rating available), by Martindale-Hubbell

## ARTICLES AND PRESENTATIONS

- Quoted, "If I Knew Then," *Crain's Phoenix*, March 2017
- Presenter, Holding on to Living Right as a High Performance Woman, 2018
- Co-author, "Frequently Asked Questions About the Coronavirus in the Employment Setting," Fennemore Client Alert, March 17, 2020
- Co-author, "Understanding the Emergency Family Medical Leave Expansion Act and Emergency Paid Sick Leave in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act," Fennemore Client Alert, March 20, 2020
- Co-author, "COVID-19: Health Plan Coverage For Furloughed Employees," Fennemore Client Alert, March 26, 2020
- Quoted, "e-Discovery Process Impacted by Covid-19 Crisis?" *Legal Reader*, June 15 2020
- Quoted, "Let's Celebrate Random Acts of Kindness Day," Fennemore Blog, February 18, 2021
- Interview, "Determine What is Important to You and Fully Commit to Making it a Priority," Fennemore Blog, August 19, 2021
- Presenter, Six Feet Under, ALAS Annual General Meeting, June 2018
- Co-author, "Practical Challenges to Enforcing Confidentiality Agreements," Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation 67th Annual Institute Proceedings, Forthcoming 2021
- Presenter, Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation 67th Annual Institute, July 2021

## PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- Former Member, Labor and Employment Section, American Bar Association
- Former Member, Arizona Association of Defense Counsel
- Former Member, The Sedona Conference, Working Group on Electronic Documents Retention and Production
- Vice-Chair, Board of Directors, Christian Family Care Agency
- Past Chair, Labor and Employment Section, State Bar of Arizona
- Past Chair-Elect, Treasurer and Secretary, Labor and Employment Section, State Bar of Arizona
- Past Chair, Continuing Legal Education Committee, Labor and Employment Section, State Bar of Arizona
- Past Co-Chair, Labor and Employment Section, State Bar of Arizona's Annual Convention
- Former Arbitrator, Orange County Bar Association Mandatory Fee Arbitration Committee
- Former Barrister, William P. Gray Legion Lex Inn of Court Foundation
- Former Judicial Extern, California Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District

## ADMISSIONS

- Arizona
- California
- Nevada
- U.S. District Court, District of Arizona
- U.S. District Court, Central District of California
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of California
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of California
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit