

# Meaghan L. Lert

*Attorney*



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As an important member of the firm's Entertainment and Media Practice, Meaghan L. Lert has provided vital legal counsel and been crucial to the successful resolution of complex litigation involving disputes over profit participation, copyrights, and film and television distribution agreements. She has helped KBK obtain victories at trial and on appeal on behalf of major media companies engaged in contract disputes and business tort actions. She also was essential to resolving disputes over legal fees, syndication, and defamation for high-profile media and entertainment clients.

Ms. Lert also has provided significant assistance to the firm's legal malpractice defense practice. She helped secure dismissal of a case against one law firm and an anti-SLAPP victory for another.

Since joining KBK in 2011, she has represented clients in proceedings in state and federal courts, on appeals, and in arbitrations. She also has been a strong advocate for *pro bono* clients, winning special education services for a child in foster care and helping to draft *amicus* briefs in appellate and U.S. Supreme Court as part of the successful defense of the constitutional right for same-sex couples to marry.

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## Education

**University of Southern California Law School, J.D., 2010**  
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**University of California, Los Angeles, California**  
**Teaching Credential 2006**

**University of California, San Diego, B.A. Literature**  
**in English, 2005**

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## Clerkships

**U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit**  
• Extern, Hon. Kim McLane Wardlaw

**U.S. District Court, Central District of California**  
• Extern, Hon. A. Howard Matz

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## Representative Matters

### Media and Entertainment

- Represented Paramount Pictures in a putative class action related to the treatment of home video revenues on films produced prior to 1981 for purposes of reporting and payment to profit participants. The

case is one of several brought against all the major movie studios.

- Obtained a complete defense victory at the trial and appellate court level for Paramount Pictures Corporation in federal securities, contract, and business tort actions related to complex domestic and

international film financing transactions.

- Secured a plaintiff's-side summary judgment, which was sustained on appeal, on behalf of client, Viacom International Inc., in a lawsuit against the toy-making company MGA Entertainment Inc. for breach of contract, resulting in a judgment of over \$14 million.
- Represented Viacom Inc. and Viacom Media Networks in an action involving numerous tort claims, including misappropriation of likeness and defamation, arising out of the production and broadcast of a reality TV program.
- Defended video game publisher in high-profile dispute related to hiring of development team responsible for most successful gaming franchise of all time.
- Represented leading outdoor advertising company in successfully opposing competitors' motion for attorneys' fees.
- Represented an entertainment company in an arbitration involving claims related to syndication of a popular television series.
- Provided legal analysis to an entertainment company with respect to rights and obligations under distribution agreements.
- Provided legal analysis to an entertainment company

with respect to the use of music in TV programming.

#### **Law Firm Defense**

- Member of team that won an anti-strategic lawsuit against public participation (anti-SLAPP) motion and judgment for a major law firm that had been sued for malicious prosecution.
- Won the dismissal of a \$3.6 million lawsuit filed against a major law firm by a plaintiff who sued the law firm's clients in underlying litigation. The plaintiff claimed the clients paid the firm's legal fees with money that the plaintiff alleged belonged to it.

#### **Pro Bono Litigation**

- Represented a high school student in foster care at meetings to successfully obtain special education services.
- Filed *amicus* briefs in the appellate and U.S. Supreme courts on behalf of family and child welfare law professors, in support of the successful defense of the constitutional right to marry for same-sex couples.
- Served as a member of the legal team that successfully represented grandparents and other relative foster parents in an action against the California Department of Social Services.

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## **Publications and Appearances**

- "Justice as Fairness: The Equitable Foundations of Adequacy Litigation," 12 *The Scholar: St. Mary's L. Rev. on Minority Issues* 403.
- "Voting Equality and Education Equality: Is the Former Possible without the Latter and are Bilingual Ballots a Sensible Response to Education Discrimination?" *The Washington & Lee Journal of Civil Rights and Social Justice*.

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## **Bar and Court Admissions**

- **California, 2010**
- **U.S. District Court**  
Central Districts of California
- **U.S. Court of Appeal for the Ninth Circuit**

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