
Lafayette & Kumagai LLP
Attorneys

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Firm Description

Called a “Big Gun” and “High Profile” by the *San Francisco Chronicle* and the *Recorder*, and a “Top Law Firm” by the *National Law Journal*, Lafayette & Kumagai LLP is a boutique minority-owned litigation firm that specializes in business torts, employment, complex litigation and trials. The twenty-three-year-old firm has earned a reputation for excellence and for providing strong advocacy. Lafayette & Kumagai received the 2011 Minority-Owned Law Firm Client Service Award, presented by the California Minority Counsel Program for outstanding client service. The firm has been listed in “Litigation Kings” for 2012 and in “Who Represents America’s Biggest Companies?” for 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014 and 2015, in *Corporate Counsel* magazine’s annual report on the law firms most used by the *Fortune* 100. For 2013 and 2015, Lafayette & Kumagai has been recognized as a “Go-To Law Firm for the Top 500 Companies” for our Labor & Employment practice. Alameda City Manager (and former Oakland City Attorney) John Russo noted to the *Recorder*, “... political players involved in a case may dictate which firm is chosen. Mayor [and California Governor] Jerry Brown, for example, likes to use San Francisco’s Lafayette & Kumagai.”

Headed by a core of seasoned litigators, the firm has handled a number of high-profile and high-exposure cases on behalf of institutional and public entity clients and is frequently contacted to take over cases from other firms, particularly cases that appear headed for trial. Lafayette & Kumagai’s big-firm trained attorneys utilize a full range of litigation approaches to resolving cases, including mediations and other methods of early dispute resolution.

Rebecca K. Kimura, Senior Associate, Lafayette & Kumagai LLP

Rebecca K. Kimura earned a Bachelor of Arts at Columbia University, Barnard College, where she graduated cum laude, with honors in Economics. She received her Juris Doctorate from Cornell Law School in 1992. While in law school, she was a judicial intern in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.

Prior to joining Lafayette & Kumagai, Ms. Kimura was an attorney with the ACLU Children’s Rights Project, and later with Children’s Rights, Inc. More recently, she was an associate at Bassi, Martini, Edlin & Blum LLP, where she specialized in employment law, general business litigation and products liability.

Ms. Kimura’s current practice at Lafayette & Kumagai includes all aspects of civil defense litigation and appellate work, with an emphasis on employment matters. Ms. Kimura has successfully brought 11 Motions for Summary Judgment, in addition to 4 other dispositive motions, since coming to the firm. Ms. Kimura has defended against wage and hour class actions, and claims involving discrimination, harassment, retaliation, wrongful termination and actions brought under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act.

Ms. Kimura is on the Executive Committee of the Litigation Section of the Bar Association of San Francisco, and on the Sponsorship Committee of the National Association of Minority & Women Owned Law Firms. She is admitted to practice before all courts of the States of California and New York, the United States District Court for the Northern, Southern and Eastern Districts of California and the Northern and Southern Districts of New York, and the United States Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit.

Published Opinions

Alvis v. AT&T, 377 Fed.Appx. 673 (9th Cir. 2010)

Speaking Engagements

“Maximizing Minority Law Firm Profitability: Strategies and Business Models,” California Minority Counsel Program Annual Business Conference, October 2008