

Erika Jacobsen White

PRINCIPAL

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Erika Jacobsen White practices client-centered trauma informed lawyering. She believes that access to justice happens both inside and outside of the courtroom, and that a good lawyer helps clients feel empowered in the face of a system that is often stacked against them.

Erika practices in the areas of employment discrimination, sexual abuse, civil rights, wage and hour, class action, and whistleblower/qui tam matters. Erika also handles executive employment agreements, severance and non-compete agreements. Her career-long commitment to representing real people facing tough challenges in their lives has resulted in significant results for her clients at trial, mediation, and arbitration – recovering millions of dollars for her clients over the course of her career.

Erika joined Joseph Greenwald & Laake after serving as the Principal of Jacobsen White Law, P.C. in Oakland, California. She is a leader in the employment bar and currently serves on the United States District Court of Maryland's Fee Petition Appendix B Subcommittee, as a member of the Board of the Metropolitan Washington Employment Lawyers Association, on the D.C. Bar's Labor & Employment Steering Committee, on the Board of the DC Trial Lawyers Association, and is a member of the Maryland State Bar Association's Labor & Employment Law Council.

Admissions

- Appellate Court of Maryland
- California
- District of Columbia
- Maryland
- Supreme Court of Maryland
- US Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of California
- US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- US District Court for the District of Columbia
- US District Court for the District of Maryland
- US District Court for the Eastern District of California
- US District Court for the Northern District of California

Education

- Suffolk University Law School, JD, 2007
- University of California, Hastings College of the Law, Visiting Student, Spring 2007
- University of Virginia, BA, 2000

Honors

- Catherine C. Blake Exceptional Service Award, U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland, 2026
- The Best Lawyers in America[®], 2025–present
- Maryland's Employment Law Power Players, *The Daily Record*, 2024
- Bethesda Magazine Top Attorneys, Employment (employee), 2023
- Super Lawyers[®]
 - Northern California Super Lawyer[®], 2018-2020
 - Northern California Rising Star, 2012-2017
- Minority Bar Coalition & Alameda-Contra Costa Trial Lawyers' Association Unity Award, 2014
- Consumer Attorneys of California
 - New Lawyers Division Legacy Award, 2013
 - New Lawyers Division Chair Award of Merit, 2012, 2014
- Consumer Attorneys of California, Presidential Award of Merit, 2010

Affiliations

- First Shift Justice Project
 - Board Chair, 2024
 - Board Vice-Chair, 2023
 - Secretary of the Board, 2020
- Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA)
 - Board Member, Employment & Labor Council
- DC Trial Lawyers Association
 - Board Member, 2023-2024
- DC Bar Association
 - Labor & Employment Law Steering Committee Member
- US District Court of Maryland
 - Member, Appendix B Subcommittee, 2024-2025
 - Member, Bench Bar Committee, 2025
- Metropolitan Washington Employment Lawyers Association
 - Board Member

- National Employment Lawyers' Association
- American Association for Justice
- Virginia Trial Lawyers Association
- Alameda-Contra Costa County Trial Lawyers' Association (Oakland, CA)
 - President, 2019
 - Board Member, 2012-present
 - Editor, The Verdict Magazine, 2015
- Consumer Attorneys of California
 - Co-Founder/Chair, New Lawyers Division, 2010-2011

Publications

- "Pregnant? Your Employer Must Provide Accommodations," The Washington Family Magazine (and in affiliate publication, MetroKids Magazine), 2024
- Quoted in "Employee Rights Groups Back Worker's FMLA Fight," Law360, 2023
- JGL Partner to work City of Peace event
- Quoted in "Officers Said They Hoped Black Lives Matters Protesters Would Die, Suit Says," New York Times, 2022
- Quoted in "Maryland park police officers said they wanted Black Lives Matter protesters dead, according to lawsuit," CNN, 2022
- Quoted in "Police Officials 'Frequently Talked About Killing BLM Protesters': Lawsuit," 97.9 WJLB, 2022
- Quoted in "Black Police Officer's Lawsuit Against Department Alleges Cops Talked About Killing Black Lives Matter Protesters," Complex, 2022
- Quoted in "New plaintiff claims Liberty University mishandled sexual assault report," 2022

Speaking Engagements

- Panelist, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, Journal of Race, Religion, Gender & Class Symposium, "Equal Pay," 2024
- Panelist, ABA Labor & Employment Law Conference, "Lawyer Wellness: Why Are We All So Cranky?," 2024
- Speaker, National Employment Lawyers' Association Annual Convention, "Courageous Plaintiff's Award for Officer Mark Miles for Miles v. Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission," 2024
- MCLE Speaker, ACCTLA: Navigating Disability in the Workplace, 2019
- San Francisco State University, Adjunct Professor, "CJ 550: School Violence and Discipline," 2016
- MCLE Speaker, American Association for Justice Convention, Montreal, Canada, "Mediating Employment Cases," 2015
- MCLE Speaker, Consumer Attorneys of California Convention, "Depositions in Employment Cases: Tips for New Lawyers or Lawyers New to Employment Law," 2014
- Mentor, De Anza High School, Law Academy Program of the State Bar of California, 2013-2016, 2018
- University of California, Berkeley Law School
 - Restorative Justice Training, 2014

- Panel Moderator and Speaker, "Arbitration After Concepcion," 2013
- Speaker on Consumer/Employment Law, 2012-2015
- Speaker, Careers in Employment Law
 - Golden Gate University School of Law, 2013
 - University of San Francisco School of Law, 2013
 - McGeorge School of Law, 2011

RELATED SERVICES

Civil Litigation

- Sexual Assault & Abuse
- Title IX Abuse & Discrimination

Civil Rights

- Excessive Force
- False Arrest
- Illegal Interrogation
- Illegal Search
- Police Brutality
- Police Misconduct
- Prisoners' Rights
- Wrongful Conviction

Labor & Employment

- Employment Contracts
- Employment Discrimination
- Non-Compete Agreements
- Reduction in Force
- Sexual Harassment
- Wrongful Termination

Whistleblower/Qui Tam