



Michelle A. Hernandez

PARTNER

Albuquerque

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RELATED SERVICES

- Healthcare
- Appellate
- Product Liability
- Commercial Litigation
- Insurance

OFFICES

- Albuquerque

OVERVIEW

Michelle Hernandez has tried cases to judgment in both state and federal court and is a member of the firm's Commercial Litigation, Appellate, Insurance, Product Liability, and Healthcare practice groups. She has more than 25 years of extensive experience in all aspects of civil litigation including: products liability, professional liability, asbestos litigation, construction defect, and insurance coverage. She also works on appellate and regulatory matters. Significantly, she was a member of a team that successfully overturned a \$53 million nursing home verdict, which at the time had been New Mexico's largest personal injury verdict.

Michelle has also represented clients in a broad range of commercial matters, including real estate and contract disputes and will contests. She has also represented public entities such as law enforcement agencies and public schools in a variety of matters including employment matters and personal injury

claims. She has represented healthcare providers including nursing homes, assisted living facilities, nurses and physicians in litigation, regulatory compliance, licensing, and Medicaid/Medicare reimbursement matters. She has also provided advice on administrative matters.

Michelle also has experience in government relations, lobbying for economic development legislation at both the State and County level. She also has experience in state and local procurement and in drafting and reviewing procurement contracts. In addition, Michelle has provided advice to individual clients on business formation and contract liability issues. Her vast experience and counsel has helped clients strategically navigate difficult litigation and complex commercial matters by providing them with early strategic thinking and efficient litigation and risk management advice.

Born and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico, she has family throughout Northern New Mexico. Prior to joining the firm, Michelle served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Joseph F. Baca, Senior Justice for the New Mexico Supreme Court.

PRESENTATIONS

- Southwest Virtual Regional Meeting Host, International Association of Defense Counsel, January 26, 2021
- Mentor providing one-on-one coaching sessions, Bizwomen Mentoring Monday, April 3, 2017
- Presentation on Diversity, Empower: A Symposium Presented by the Junior League of Albuquerque, March 18, 2017
- *Developing Political Savvy: Hard Work and Talent Are Not Enough*, New Mexico Women in Leadership Symposium “Secure Your Place at the Table,” October 27, 2016
- Panelist, #LawMom Luncheon, Committee on Women and the Legal Profession, October 19, 2016

CREDENTIALS

Admissions

- New Mexico
- U.S. District Court, District of New Mexico
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Tenth Circuit

Memberships

- International Association of Defense Counsel Foundation, Board of Directors, 2023-2024

Community Involvement

- National Hispanic Cultural Center Foundation, Board of Trustees, 2019-present; Chair, 2024
- St. Felix Pantry, Board of Directors, 2019-2024

Education

- J.D., University of California at Los Angeles, 1997
 - Awarded Pioneering Women in the Law Scholarship, 1995
- B.A., *magna cum laude*, Political Science, University of New Mexico, 1993
 - Phi Beta Kappa

Honors

- University of New Mexico Alumni Association, Zia Award (2024)
- *Best Lawyers*® Health Care Law “Lawyer of the Year” in Albuquerque (2024)
- *Best Lawyers in America*®, Health Care Law, Litigation – Health Care, Litigation – Insurance (2021-2024)
- Southwest *Super Lawyers*® (derived from a lawyer survey) (2014-2024); “Top 25 New Mexico Super Lawyers,” (2022)
- *Albuquerque Journal* 2020 Women in Business Winner
- *Albuquerque Business First*, Diverse Business Leader (2019)
- “100 Women Who Inspire Us” – American Bar Association’s 2019 Women in Litigation Joint CLE Conference
- *Martindale-Hubbell*® Bar Register of Preeminent Women Lawyers (2014)
- *Martindale-Hubbell* AV® Preeminent Peer Review Rated
- *Albuquerque Business First*, Woman of Influence (2014)
- *New Mexico Business Weekly*, 40 Under Forty (2011)
- Fellow, American Bar Foundation (2010-2024)
- Senior Fellow, Litigation Counsel of America (2007-2024)
- Who’s Who in American Law (2007)