MUSICK PEELER

KENNETH L. PERKINS, JR.

PARTNER

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Experience

Kenneth L. Perkins, Jr. specializes in business litigation and counselling. Mr. Perkins has litigated cases in both state and federal courts at the trial court and appellate levels, as well as before related government agencies. Mr. Perkins has used various methods of alternative dispute resolution to his clients' advantage, including arbitration, mediation and private judges.

Mr. Perkins' experience encompasses a wide range of business disputes. He has handled both simple and complex business disputes, including matters involving breach of contract, business torts, fraud, non-competition agreements, trade secrets, employee theft, collections, alter ego claims, partnership disputes (general and limited), products liability (design and manufacture), and intellectual property disputes (trademark, trade dress and copyright).

Mr. Perkins also represents commercial landlords in landlord-tenant cases, including unlawful detainer and breach of lease cases. He has litigated and advised clients on matters involving tenant improvements, fixtures, assignment/subletting, tenant bankruptcies, mechanic's liens arising from tenant or contractor insolvency/ bankruptcy, environmental issues, and abandoned property. These cases principally involve office buildings, industrial buildings, and commercial centers. His clients have included owners, property managers, and, on occasion, commercial tenants.

Mr. Perkins also counsels and defends employers in employment disputes. This includes defense of claims for wrongful termination, constructive termination, discrimination (race, age, sex, religion, sexual orientation, disability), harassment, and wage and hour matters, including claims for unpaid overtime and missed meal breaks and rest periods. This includes defense of claims in the courts and before the Labor Commission, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board, and the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board (claims under Labor Code section 132a).

Mr. Perkins has substantial experience in matters involving the printing and graphics arts industries. In addition to the issues common to any business (e.g., personnel issues, trade contracts), these matters have involved issues specific to the printing industry, such as defective printing/cutting/gluing, defective equipment (e.g., poor registration, ghosting), and equipment finance agreements. His clients have included companies involved in printing, lithography, binding, coating, direct mail, fulfillment, large format, newspapers/periodicals/magazines, gluing, photocopying, graphic design, business forms, labels, and packaging.

Mr. Perkins also serves as outside corporate counsel to not-for-profit trade associations and related entities (e.g., insurance agency, long-term disability plan, MEWA/ERISA plans). In addition to typical operations issues (e.g., personnel issues, landlord-tenant issues), this includes advising boards and committees, preparation and revision of bylaws and other documents (e.g., resolutions, committee charters, and policies concerning document retention and "whistleblowers"), and advising on member discipline, board structure and other governance issues.

Education

- University of California, Irvine, B.A., 1980
- University of Southern California School of Law, J.D., 1983

Bar Admissions

- State Bar of California

Practice Areas

- Business Litigation Group
- Labor & Employment
- Litigation
- Real Estate