



Tessa R. Lessner

Senior Associate

San Francisco

1 California Street
Suite 3050

San Francisco, CA 94111-5432

✉ tlessner@bwslaw.com

☎ **D:** +1 415.655.8140

☎ **T:** +1 415.655.8100

PRACTICES

Employment Law and Litigation
Labor Relations

EDUCATION

J.D., cum laude, California
Western School of Law, June
2013

B.A., High Honors, University of
California, Santa Barbara, July
2009

ADMISSION

State Bar of California

United States Court of Appeals
for the Ninth Circuit

United States District Court for
the Central District of California

United States District Court for
the Eastern District of California

United States District Court for
the Northern District of
California

United States District Court for
the Southern District of
California

Tessa Lessner represents both public and private sector employers in all aspects of labor and employment matters including employment policies and procedures, federal and local agency claims, wrongful termination, and wage and hour. She works to prepare clients for trial and develop strategies by conducting extensive legal research, preparing and responding to all forms of discovery, drafting and responding to complaints, and interviewing and preparing witnesses for depositions.

PUBLICATIONS

Plastic-Reduction Efforts in California Yield to COVID-19 Pandemic

RECOGNITIONS

Alameda County Volunteer of the Year, 2021-2022

Phillip A. Harley Memorial Mock Trial Competition, Scorer, Judge, Coach,
2019 - 2025

California Western School of Law Award for Academic Excellence -
Outstanding Academic Performance in Entertainment Law, 2012

California Western School of Law Trustees Scholar Program, 2010-2013

California Western School of Law Pro Bono Honors Society Award

UCSB Communication Department Award for Academic Excellence, 2009

UCSB Dean's Honors, 2006-2009

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Defended the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation ("CDCR") against allegations of Eighth Amendment excessive force and failure to protect claims arising from an alleged attack on a California inmate by fifteen correctional officers and sergeants. CDCR prevailed on summary judgment.
- Obtained summary judgment for CDCR in several matters alleging deliberate indifference to serious medical needs.
- Obtained summary judgment for CDCR in litigation filed by a

California inmate against four CDCR employees for retaliation and claims of conspiracy and violations of the Bane Act.

- Obtained summary judgment for CDCR based on plaintiff's failure to exhaust his administrative remedies in matter alleging retaliation.
- Demurrer sustained for CDCR in action alleging negligence and intentional infliction of emotional distress based on plaintiff's failure to comply with the Government Claims Act.