

## Shawn M. Joost

Associate Attorney

916-446-2300, Ext. 3010

[sjoost@murphyaustin.com](mailto:sjoost@murphyaustin.com)

Practice Area(s): Business and Commercial Litigation, Labor and Employment, Employee Benefits and Executive Compensation

### Overview

Shawn Joost's practice is focused on employment law and business and commercial litigation. She has more than ten years of experience in complex litigation, including employment, business, real estate, trade secrets, construction, securities, and mass torts. She is experienced in both the prosecution and defense of claims.

In her litigation practice, Shawn represents clients in court, administrative and alternative dispute resolution proceedings.

In her counseling practice, Shawn advises companies in all areas of employment law including employment classification, employee termination, leave decisions, wage and hour matters and drafting effective and enforceable employment policies, and executive employment agreements.

In addition to her extensive legal career with highly-respected California firms, Shawn brings several years of experience as an Executive Director and Senior Manager with non-profit organizations, spanning the fields of legal services, education, and health. Her experience directing these organizations provides a unique and valuable perspective on the real-world business issues faced by her clients.

Shawn received her Juris Doctor degree, *magna cum laude*, from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law. During law school, she was awarded the Order of the Coif as well as American Jurisprudence Awards in Civil and Criminal Procedure. She also served as a Note Editor on the *Hastings Law Journal*. Shawn graduated with her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley.



### Memberships

- Sacramento County Bar Association, Employment Law Section

### Bar Admissions

- State Bar of California
- The Florida Bar (inactive)

### Community Involvement

- UC Davis Children's Hospital Children's Miracle Network Advisory Council (2015-2017)
- Classroom Facilitator, Operation Protect and Defend (2016)
- Volunteer, Educate Tomorrow, Inc. (2006-2010)

## Representative Matters

- Defend employers in class action lawsuits in addition to formulating litigation strategies designed to prevent class certification.
- Regularly draft, review, and revise employee handbooks and policy manuals, employment agreements, negotiated severance packages for corporate executives, independent contractor agreements, alcohol and drug testing policies, workplace search policies, and pre-employment inquiry policies and procedures.
- Represent clients accused of violating federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and harassment based on race, sex, religion, age, disability or engaging in protected activity like testifying or complaining about perceived illegal conduct.
- Represented employers in claims against former employees and other businesses for unfair competition, trade secret misappropriation, and related business torts.
- Represented property owners in real property partitions and partnership dissolutions.
- Represented international hotel franchise in \$2 billion breach of contract claim against Japanese real estate development company and related claims against foreign lender.
- Represented domestic and international clients in securities arbitration against nationally-known brokerage firm and broker.
- Defended technology company in licensing and contract claims by departing founder.
- Represented contractor in suit against property owner and construction lender in breach of contract and related claims.
- Published Case: Forster v. Superior Court (1992) 11 CalApp.4th 782, Joost (Britton), Shawn, M.
- Mentor, Fighting Back Mentor Program (2000-2001)
- Mentor, WoMentoring Program with the Bar Association of San Francisco's Volunteer, Legal Services Program (1998)
- Volunteer, Grace Davis High School Mock Trial program (1992)

## Education

University of California, Hastings  
College of the Law  
J.D., *magna cum laude*, 1990,  
Order of the Coif

University of California, Berkeley  
B.A., Political Science, 1985

## Leadership

- WEAVE 40th Anniversary Event Committee (2017 - present)
- Children's Miracle Network at UC Davis Children's Hospital, Member, Business Advisory Council (2015-2017)
- Educate Tomorrow, Corp., Member, Board of Directors (2006-2010)
- Miami-Dade County Community Based Care Alliance, Member,

Board of Directors (2012)

- Stanislaus County Women Lawyers Association, Secretary and Member of the Board of Directors (1992-93)

## Speaking Engagements

- Panelist, "Murphy Austin Annual Employment Law Update," Sacramento, CA (2016-2017)
- Co-Presenter, " Minefields of Employment Law," Workshop for The Impact Foundry's WHAT IF Conference (October 2017)
- Speaker, California Partnership for Access to Treatment Luncheon (2015)
- Speaker, Andrus Family Fund Grantee Conference (2011)
- Speaker, National Association of Tour Operators Annual Conference (2002)
- Speaker, San Francisco County Bar Association Conference (1998)

## Publications

- Bezek, P., Britton, S. (Joost), and Curtis, R. "Employer Monitoring of Employee Internet Use and E-Mail: Nightmare or Necessity?" 2 Cyber Tech Litigation Report 11 (2001)