

Melissa Mills

PARTNER

Litigation
Los Angeles

mmills@wsgr.com
323-210-2991



FOCUS AREAS

Commercial Litigation
Litigation
Strategic Risk and Crisis
Management
Supreme Court and
Appellate
Trial

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Diverse Legal Experience**
Melissa's deep legal experience spans many environments, including the U.S. Attorney's Office, the U.S. Marine Corps, and the private sector.
- **Commitment to Community**
Melissa has a longstanding commitment to public service, community engagement, and pro bono and volunteer efforts.

EXPERIENCE

Melissa Mills is a litigation partner in the Los Angeles office of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, where she is a member of the firm's national team of trial lawyers known for its success in litigating cutting-edge disputes in technology, intellectual property, and other areas.

Prior to joining the firm, Melissa was an Assistant United States Attorney for the Central District of California, where she investigated and prosecuted complex corruption and national security crimes for over a decade. She was responsible for shaping investigations, analyzing evidence, developing charges, presenting cases to the grand jury, motion practice, litigating jury trials, advocating for appropriate sentences, and any resulting appellate practice. Most recently, she led a complex criminal investigation into bribery and corruption at the highest levels of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, resulting in convictions of several senior officials. She also investigated a sophisticated web of racketeering and corruption-related offenses alleged to involve local politicians, lobbyists, and developers. Other litigated cases included the capital murder of a Transportation Security Administration officer, international arms trafficking, espionage, trade secret theft, bribery and corruption, domestic and international terrorism, and other serious crimes against the U.S. She also trained and mentored junior-level Assistant U.S. Attorneys.

Before joining the U.S. Attorney's Office in 2010, Melissa was an associate in the Los Angeles office of Gibson Dunn focused on white collar crime, compliance, and anti-corruption matters. Previously, she was an active-duty officer in the United States Marine Corps stationed in Quantico, Camp Pendleton, and Fallujah, Iraq. During her service in the Marine Corps, she prosecuted and defended hundreds of criminal cases, trying numerous jury trials to verdict. During a seven-month deployment to Iraq, she traveled throughout the war theater to investigate and prosecute crimes in a combat environment. She completed her service in 2006 at the rank of captain.

After graduating from law school, Melissa clerked for the Honorable A.S. Efron of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces. She then went on to work on the investigation and prosecution of war crimes before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague.

CREDENTIALS

Education

- J.D., Columbia Law School, 2000
- B.A., Environmental Law and Policy, State University of New York at Binghamton, 1996

Associations and Memberships

- Chair, USAO Veterans Affairs Committee, 2017-present
- Board Member, National Institute of Military Justice, 2010-2017
- Security Fellow, Truman National Security Project, 2007-2016
- Weekly Volunteer, Community Childhood Literacy Program, 2013-present
- Envoy to Guantanamo Bay, National Institute of Military Justice, 2013

Honors

- Honored among *Los Angeles Business Journal's* "Leaders of Influence: Thriving in Their 40s 2023"

Admissions

- State Bar of California
- State Bar of New York
- U.S. District Court for the Central District of California
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces
- U.S. Supreme Court

INSIGHTS

Select Publications

- Contributing author, "NIMJ Reports from Guantanamo, Vol. 4," *National Institute of Military Justice*, November 2018
- "Brass Collar Crime: A Corporate Model For Command Responsibility," *Willamette Law Review*, Fall 2010
- Co-author, "The Customary Origins and Elements of Select Conduct of Hostilities Charges Before the ICTY: A Potential Model for Use by Military Commissions," 179 *Military Law Review* 68, Spring 2004
- Principal co-author, "Inter Arma Silent Leges: In Times of War, Should the Laws Be Silent?" Report on the President's Executive Order Establishing Military Commissions in the War Against Terrorism, Association of the Bar of the City of New York, 2001

Select Speaking Engagements

- Panelist, "War Crimes: From the Battlefield to the Courtroom," Appellate Judges Education Institute Annual Summit, November 2021
- Presenter, "View from the Prosecution," ABA White Collar Crimes Committee Annual Meeting, June 2020
- Presenter, "Hamdaniyah: Case Study of an American War Crimes Prosecution," University of London, February 2009