

Jessica Kang

## Candidate Statement

I write to express interest in the open Defense Counsel position on the Labor and Employment Law Section's Executive Committee. I have served on the Labor and Employment Section Executive Committee in the position of At-Large Representing Defense, Private since 2023.

I am currently a partner at K&L Gates LLP. In over 15 years of practice, I have gained extensive experience in all aspects of employment law. I began my career as a general civil litigator, during which time I learned the basics of litigation while navigating multiple and very different areas of law - from wage and hour claims to shareholder derivative and fiduciary duty claims. I gained an interest in employment law, specifically, because, as the daughter of a small business owner, I could empathize and understand the business owners' perspective in addressing employees and employment issues.

In order to pursue further specialization in employment law, I moved firms to Littler Mendelson, P.C. (Littler). While at Littler, I was given wide latitude to run my own cases, and implement non-traditional litigation strategies, which made me a stronger litigator. I also expanded my advice and counsel, transactional and training practice. I have also provided various trainings for corporate employees, including how to conduct an investigation and harassment, discrimination and retaliation training. In addition to work for specific clients, I have served on various panels, provided webinars and presented on various employment law issues for the general public, human resource groups and the Korean American Bar Association of Southern California. After transitioning to K&L Gates LLP, I have expanded my practice areas to include due diligence of employment issues for merger and acquisition deals and traditional labor law. I have also expanded my advice and counsel practice, in addition to continuing my litigation work.

In my role as At-Large Representing Defense, Private, I helped to organize panels for our section's annual conference including the following panels: The Future of DEIA in the Workplace Following *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard*, and The Comeback Kid: Navigating Employees' Return to Work, Including Accommodations, CBA Considerations, and More. I am eager to engage in the Seattle and greater Seattle area labor and employment law communities through continued work with the Executive Committee. Thank you for your consideration.