bodman

Michelle L. Kolkmeyer

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Ms. Kolkmeyer is a litigation and employment attorney who represents businesses and institutional clients in complex disputes and day-to-day workplace matters. Her practice is divided between commercial litigation and management-side employment law, allowing her to counsel clients proactively while also defending them when disputes arise.

Ms. Kolkmeyer regularly represents employers in litigation involving discrimination, retaliation, and wage and hour claims, and advises on employee discipline, terminations, and policy development. She works closely with management teams and human resources professionals to navigate sensitive personnel issues and minimize risk.

In her commercial litigation practice, Ms. Kolkmeyer handles a broad range of business disputes, including contract, regulatory, and operational matters. She has experience managing complex cases in both state and federal courts.

Ms. Kolkmeyer also has a particular focus on advising nonpublic schools, religious organizations, and other mission-driven entities. She counsels these clients on governance, employment, and regulatory issues, and understands the unique legal considerations that arise in faith-based and nonprofit settings. She has also worked with cemetery and related entities on compliance and operational matters.

Before joining Bodman, Ms. Kolkmeyer served as in-house litigation and employment counsel for a large healthcare organization, where

practices & industries

Workplace Law

Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution

education

Wayne State University Law School, J.D., *cum laude*

Michigan State University, B.S.

admissions

Michigan

she advised on employment matters, defended complex claims, and worked directly with business leaders to manage legal risk.

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HONORS, AWARDS, AND RECOGNITION

- *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America* 2022-2027, Labor and Employment Law - Management
- *Michigan Rising Stars* 2024-2026, Employment & Labor
- *DBusiness* Magazine "Top Lawyers" 2025, Labor and Employment Law

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Oakland County Bar Association
- State Bar of Michigan
  - Litigation Section, Member

PUBLICATIONS

- "Supreme Court Eliminates "Background Circumstances" Test for Title VII Claims," Bodman Workplace Law Update (June 30, 2025)
- "Michigan Supreme Court Expands Retaliation Liability Under Michigan's Civil Rights Act," Bodman Workplace Law Update (June 4, 2024)
- Co-author, "Federal Trade Commission Proposes Broad Ban on Non-Compete Agreements," Bodman Workplace Law Update (July 6, 2023)
- "Can Employers Require a COVID-19 Vaccine?," Bodman Workplace Law Alert, December 2020
- "Latest Executive Orders Green Light Pools, Gyms and Fall Sports," Bodman COVID-19 Response Team Update, September 2020
- "Guidance Issued on Payroll Tax Holiday-Here's What We Know," Bodman COVID-19 Response Team Update, September 2020
- "Governor Whitmer Amends MI Safe Start Order to Limit Indoor Gatherings, Close Bars and Open Casinos," Bodman COVID-19 Response Team Update, July 2020
- Co-Author (with Katherine F. Cser), "Update on the Family First Coronavirus Response Act," Bodman COVID-19 Response Team Update, March 2020

PRO BONO

- State Bar of Michigan 2023 A Lawyer Helps Pro Bono Honor Roll