

# Daily Journal

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## Top Labor & Employment Lawyers 2022

### Michele L. Maryott

GIBSON, DUNN & CRUTCHER LLP  
IRVINE



**M**ichele L. Maryott's practice focuses on business litigation, with particular emphasis on employment litigation, class actions and complex commercial disputes.

She has litigated a wide range of labor and employment matters, including defending employers against wage and hour and discrimination class actions, retaliation, sexual harassment, wrongful termination and whistleblower claims in federal and state courts, as well as in administrative proceedings and arbitrations.

"The joy comes in winning for our clients. For me, that's always the best part of a case," Maryott said. "But I also take joy in watching my colleagues shine. I'm really proud of our win for Amazon in the Ortiz case."

Maryott is co-lead counsel on a series of putative wage and hour actions brought against Amazon in California. The plaintiffs allege a variety of claims, including alleged misclassification, failure to pay for all time worked and alleged violations of California's meal period and rest break requirements.

In one of those cases, Maryott's deposition of the plaintiff helped secure the win. "I deposed the plaintiff and got some really great admissions that the team was able to use in our briefing. You don't always get all the admissions you want and you're happy if you get a handful of really good ones, but we got plenty of great ones," she said. "That was very helpful to winning that case."

On June 8, 2021, Gibson Dunn obtained a significant victory on behalf of Amazon.com Services LLC and Amazon.com, Inc., when Magistrate Judge Barbara A. McAuliffe of the Eastern District of California recommended denial of class certification of a putative class of more than 200,000 former and current non-exempt Amazon associates in California.

The Court rejected nine of plaintiffs' eleven proposed classes. *Trevino v. Golden State FC LLC*, 1:17-cv-01300 (E.D. Cal., filed Aug. 19, 2019).

She is also lead counsel in a lawsuit filed against loanDepot and two individuals by former Chief Operating Officer Tamara Richards, who alleges she was retaliated against for allegedly raising concerns about loan practices. After the trial court sustained the demurrer filed by Gibson Dunn, the plaintiff did not amend the complaint, resulting in the individual defendants being dismissed. "That was especially satisfying, particularly because many people think demurrers are so hard to win."

Maryott's entire legal career has been with Gibson Dunn in their Orange County office.

— Douglas Saunders