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Chris Scheithauer

Chris is a partner in the law firm of McDermott Will & Emery LLP and is based in the Firm's Orange County and Los Angeles offices. Chris handles many types of general civil litigations matters, with a focus on class action employee benefit litigation under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). Chris serves as the co-head of his Firm's nationwide ERISA Litigation Team. He also practices extensively in the area of labor and employment litigation and advice.

Chris's ERISA practice involves counseling employers, plan fiduciaries and trustees in matters concerning employee benefit plans. He regularly represents companies and their ERISA plans in defending claims for wrongful denial of benefits. Chris also defends companies, officers and directors, and other alleged ERISA plan fiduciaries against claims for breach of fiduciary duties in employee stock ownership plan (ESOP) and 401(k) class actions regarding company stock declines or changes to pension plans. Chris is a contributing author to the *Employee Benefits Law* treatise, published by the American Bar Association (ABA)'s Employee Benefits Subcommittee on ERISA.

Some of Chris' significant victories include a billion dollar pension-benefits dispute argued on behalf of Northrop Grumman Corporation, a breach of fiduciary duty case on behalf of the former Montana Power Company, and a victory for an institutional plan trustee in an ERISA dispute involving the General Motors Corporation ERISA 401 (k) Plan.

Chris represents clients in state and federal courts, as well as in administrative proceedings and investigations before such agencies as the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing, the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the California Department of Industrial Relations/Division of Labor Standards Enforcement.

Chris has been repeatedly honored as a "Southern California Rising Star" in Los Angeles Magazine and the Southern California Super Lawyers-Rising Stars edition. He has been identified in Chambers USA and The Legal 500 for being a leading lawyer in his field.

Chris has served on the Board of Directors for the Orange County Federal Bar Association. Chris is also a member of the California and American Bar Associations.