



## Monica A. Romero

### Associate

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## OVERVIEW

Monica Romero is an associate in the firm's Labor, Employment, and Workplace Safety practice. She served as a summer associate at the firm in 2020. During law school, Monica externed for the Honorable Justice Mary Yu of the Washington State Supreme Court, where she researched legal issues, drafted bench memos, and wrote opinions in a variety of civil and criminal cases.

Monica also practiced in the University of Washington Appellate Advocacy clinic. In this role, she provided direct representation in a §1983 appeal to the Ninth Circuit. Along with co-counsel, Monica regularly met with her client to discuss case progression and strategy, researched applicable Eighth Amendment case law, wrote briefs, and argued in front of the Ninth Circuit.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- CALI Excellence for the Future Awards: Criminal Procedure (Fall 2020) and Civil Rights (Spring 2021)

## EDUCATION

- J.D., University of Washington School of Law, 2021 (*Washington Law Review*, *Chair of Diversity & Inclusion*, *Notes & Comments Editor*)
- B.A., University of Washington, 2018 (*cum laude*)

## ADMISSIONS

- Bar of Washington

## THOUGHT LEADERSHIP POWERED BY HUB

- 10 January 2022, COVID-19: Cameras in the Courtroom & Post-Pandemic Access to Appellate Proceedings
- 22 December 2021, When Does Travel or Commute Time Count as "Hours Worked" Under Washington Law?

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Monica Romero, Comment, *How Far Will FARA Go? The Foreign Agents Registration Act and the Criminalization of Global Human Rights Advocacy*, 96 WASH. L. REV. 695 (2021)

## AREAS OF FOCUS

- Labor, Employment, and Workplace Safety
- Appellate Litigation

## REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Represented a leading US-based online shopping company for consumer and small business travel in a number of class actions involving claims for unpaid wages and unreimbursed employee expenses brought on behalf of a broad range of employees in Washington State, California, and elsewhere. Disposed of one class action in federal court in Washington State through an early motion to compel individual arbitration; reached early settlements to resolve two other class actions in state courts in Florida and California. Developed a litigation strategy to quickly dispose of two additional class actions in state courts in Washington State.
- Defended a government agency against contract, statutory, and equitable class action claims for wages and penalties in relation to the time thousands of government employees spent commuting between their jobs and their homes in government-owned vehicles. Developed a strategy to dispose of the case through an early motion for summary judgment. After very limited discovery and expense to our client, the court granted our motion and dismissed the plaintiffs' claims in their entirety.