



Chaitra Gowda

Associate

Baltimore | 410.862.1355 | cgowda@bakerdonelson.com

As a member of the Firm's Labor & Employment Group, Chaitra Gowda represents clients before state and federal courts, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the U.S. Department of Labor, and several other tribunals, advising and defending clients on all aspects of employment and compliance issues. With a focus on labor and employment matters, she also maintains a broad litigation practice in fiduciary and business litigation matters.

Chaitra Gowda, a member of the Firm's Labor & Employment Group, represents businesses in matters involving contract negotiations, employee relations and labor issues. Ms. Gowda's litigation experience includes assisting in the defense against claims of discrimination, retaliation, wrongful termination, breach of contract, non-compete and non-solicit claims, wage and hour allegations, and federal investigations related to the False Claims Act, the Service Contract Act, and the Davis-Bacon Act.

In addition to labor and employment, Ms. Gowda represents businesses and individuals in complex commercial litigation matters, including finance, contract, business, real estate, and fiduciary related disputes. She also represents individuals and entities in complex estate and trust litigation matters, as well as constitutional issues including Bivens claims and 1983 claims.

Ms. Gowda is experienced in a wide range of complex and commercial litigation matters in state and federal courts, before agencies, boards and tribunals. She counsels management on trade secrets, debt collection, breach of contract, employment, white collar, enforcement, compliance, construction, federal investigations, intentional torts, civil rights, real estate and fiduciary related matters.

Prior to private practice, Ms. Gowda served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Mark W. Crooks of the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County for two years. While in law school, she was a member of the Business Law Program, practiced as a Rule 16 Attorney at the University of Maryland School of Law's Summer Legal Clinic, and clerked for a boutique law firm in Annapolis, Maryland.

Representative Matters

- Represented a federal contractor serving government agencies during a DOL investigation, achieving a favorable resolution for the client.
- Represented a national financial entity in several breach of contract lawsuits, including non-competes, non-solicits and non-disclosure claims.
- Represented a national medical diagnostic laboratory in federal investigations as well as state and federal lawsuits filed by former affiliates.
- Successfully obtained a remand on a Medicare appeals in federal court after prevailing on a motion to dismiss filed by the Department of Health and Human Services.
- Successfully obtained a multi-million-dollar bond against judgment debtors in Maryland state court.
- Successfully obtained judgments in favor of clients in detinue and replevin actions in Maryland state court.
- Represented a client in a breach of contract filed by a contractor. Conducted initial motions practice and significant discovery before the matter was resolved during mediation.

- Assisted in the removal of a personal representative for mismanaging estate property and failing to comply with fiduciary duties in her management of the estate.
- Assisted in a favorable settlement for clients in a complex estate and trust matter involving Pennsylvania and California state courts in a case of first impression legal issue.



Professional Honors & Activities

- Member – Maryland State Bar Association
- Member – Baltimore City Bar Association
 - Young Lawyers Division
- Member – Anne Arundel Bar Association
- Member – American Bar Association
- Member – Baltimore County Bar Association
- Executive Committee Member – Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Maryland
- Mentor – Maryland Carey Law Alumni Mentor Program



Publications

- "Tax-Exempt Private Schools Treated Equally to Federally Funded Schools, Subject to Title IX Requirements" (July 2022)



Education

- University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, J.D., 2016
 - Articles Editor – *Journal of Business & Technology Law*
- Michigan State University, B.S., 2011



Admissions

- Maryland, 2016
- U.S. District Court, District of Maryland
- U.S. Bankruptcy Court, District of Maryland
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit