



# Blerina Kotori

## PARTNER

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503.802.2055 direct

## LEGAL SERVICES

Labor & Employment Advice

Employment Litigation

Information Privacy & Security

## EDUCATION

J.D., *cum laude*, Lewis & Clark Law School, 2007

B.A., Commendation for Excellence, Reed College, 2003

## BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

Oregon State Bar

Washington State Bar Association

U.S. District Court of Oregon

U.S. District Court, Western and Eastern Districts of Washington

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

### Portland Business Journal

2018, Forty Under 40

### Super Lawyers

2015–2017, Oregon Rising Star - Employment & Labor

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Multnomah Bar Association

National Association of Professional Women

NWEEEO/Affirmative Action Association

Oregon Association of Defense Counsel

Oregon Women Lawyers

Portland Human Resource Management Association

Society for Human Resource Management

Blerina Kotori's practice focuses on labor and employment law. She advises and represents employers in various matters, including discrimination, retaliation, FMLA/OFLA and other leave laws, wage and hour, sexual harassment, non-competition, disability, and employment benefits. Blerina further specializes in data privacy and security, and assists companies with dealing with data security breaches. Blerina's practice includes litigation with emphasis on non-competition disputes, trade secrets, fiduciary duties of employees, and business torts involving employers.

Recent accomplishments include trying to a favorable jury verdict non-competition and fiduciary duty claims, trying to favorable judicial ruling trade secret, breach of employment agreement, and non-competition cases, defending wage and hour class actions, and winning summary judgment on defamation and tortious interference claims involving employees.

The Portland Business Journal named Blerina as one of its 2018 Forty Under 40 award recipients, recognizing influential business and community leaders in the greater Portland area who are under 40 years old.

Blerina is a frequent speaker on labor and employment issues, including HIPAA and employment benefits, dealing with mental disorders in the workplace, social media in employment settings, as well as on privacy and electronic discovery issues.

Blerina previously worked at Tonkon Torp as a summer associate. She is the first Tonkon Torp associate to receive the Moe M. Tonkon and Frederick Torp Scholarship. In her free time, Blerina likes to spend time with her family, cook, dance, and travel.

## Presentations & Publications

"Employment Law for Startups," TiE Oregon Bootcamp, October 2018

"Demystifying Leave Laws," Woodruff Sawyer, June 2018

"The Price of Your Truth: Implicit Bias and Workplace Sexual Harassment in the #metoo Era," Women's Center for Leadership, March 2018

"Implicit Bias and Harassment in the Workplace," Bureau of Labor and Industries Annual Conference, November 2017

"The 'Bermuda Triangle' of Leave Laws," Bureau of Labor and Industries Annual Conference, November 2016

"Legislative Developments in Employment Law," Expert Guide – Opportunities & Developments – West Coast USA, Corporate LiveWire, April 2016

"Three Invisible Traps of HR and How to Avoid Them," April 2016

"Employment Law for Startups," November 2015

"Sexual Harassment, Discrimination and Retaliation in the Workplace," The Salvation Army Portland ARC, October 2013

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & ACTIVITIES

**Raphael House**  
Board of Directors

**Oregon State Bar Civil Rights Section**  
Executive Committee Member

**Classroom Law Project**  
Volunteer

**Business for Culture and the Arts**  
Art of Leadership Program 2012

"Protecting Confidential Business Information,"  
PHRMA News & Views, September 2013

"Politics in the Workplace," PHRMA News & Views,  
July 2013

"The Pitfall of the Unpaid Intern," PHRMA News &  
Views, June 2013

"Sick Times in Portland: What You Should Know  
about Portland's Sick Leave Ordinance," PHRMA  
News & Views, March 2013

"Zealous or Excessive – Can a Lawyer's Good  
Intentions Go Too Far?," Oregon Law Institute,  
October 2012

"Sexual Harassment from a Management Perspective,"  
Lewis & Clark Law School, October 2012

"Compliance Issues Regarding Use of Social Media,"  
Greater Portland Compliance Association, July 2012

"HIPAA Privacy Rule Violations," Multnomah Bar  
Association, June 2012

"Current HIPAA Requirements," Lewis & Clark Law  
School Employment Law Society, November 2011

"E-Discovery," Multnomah Bar Association,  
November 2011

