



## Melissa Cook Allison

Partner

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### Practice Areas

General Civil Litigation  
Airport Litigation  
Federal Regulatory  
Compliance  
Litigation  
Airports

### Honors

Massachusetts Super  
Lawyers, 2019-2020

### Clerkships

The Honorable Joseph R.  
Goodwin, U.S. District Court,  
Southern District of West  
Virginia

### Education

Boston College Law School,  
J.D. 2003 *cum laude*  
Senior Articles Editor, *Third  
World Law Journal*

Bryn Mawr College, B.A. 1999  
*magna cum laude*  
High thesis honors

### Overview

Melissa represents private and public sector clients in commercial, regulatory and administrative matters. Over the last several years, she has defended the Massachusetts Gaming Commission in a series of cases challenging the Commission's award of a casino license to Wynn Resorts. Melissa also represents municipalities and private entities in litigation and other forms of dispute resolution in a range of matters, such as land use, environmental and contract disputes.

Melissa advises airport owners on federal regulatory compliance and represents them in civil litigation. Melissa has defended airport owners across the country in Part 16 proceedings before the FAA. She routinely advises airport owners on federal grant compliance, and negotiates with FAA to resolve significant grant disputes. Melissa authored an amicus brief in the 9/11 litigation pending in federal court in New York on behalf of the leading airport trade association, Airports Council International.

Melissa is committed to pro bono and civic matters. She recently represented, on a pro bono basis, several Boston Public School students and various organizations in their efforts to preserve the statutory cap on the number of charter schools in Massachusetts. Melissa also is a member of the board of Lawyers for Civil Rights.

### Results

- Successfully defended the Massachusetts Gaming Commission against challenges by the City of Boston, the City of Revere, and individuals (under the Open Meeting Law) to the Commission's award of a casino license to Wynn Resorts.
- Successfully argued before the Supreme Judicial Court to preserve the statutory cap on funding for charter schools in Massachusetts on behalf of *amici* Boston Public School students and various civil right and educational organizations.
- Successfully defended an airport proprietor in prominent antitrust and RICO litigation in federal court in Massachusetts.
- Defeated two lawsuits challenging a healthcare provider's decision to require prior authorization before providing coverage for compounded drugs.
- Authored an *amicus* brief on behalf of Airports Council International in the 9/11 litigation.
- Successfully defended airport owners in Part 16 proceedings concerning FBO fueling rights.
- Facilitated airport owners' resolutions of significant grant disputes with FAA, including, for example, disputes involving the alleged diversion of airport revenue, releases of airport land, and ACDBE compliance.

- Successfully negotiated with FAA to obtain a substantial reduction of a civil penalty in FAA enforcement action concerning shipment of hazardous materials.

**Affiliations**

Lawyers for Civil Rights Boston, Board Member