

Melissa Osorio Dibble

PARTNER

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LOCATED IN
Mount Laurel, NJPhiladelphia, PA

MEET MELISSA

> *"My clients can count on me to be both a strong advocate and a steady presence, protecting their interests and guiding them through life's most challenging transitions.*
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> — **Melissa Dibble**

Melissa chairs Obermayer's Trusts and Estates practice group. She is a fiduciary litigator representing individuals, financial institutions, universities, charities, fiduciaries, and beneficiaries in complex estate, trust, and guardianship disputes across New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Her practice spans a broad range of probate, Orphans' Court, and general equity matters, including will contests, breach-of-fiduciary-duty claims, accountings, trust modifications, contested administrations, guardianships, cy pres matters, pre-death litigation, and matters involving the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (UPMIFA) and the Slayer Statute.

Melissa understands that fiduciary litigation is often about far more than money. Many clients seek her counsel during some of life's most challenging moments, after the loss of a loved one, amid family conflict, or while protecting a vulnerable family member. She combines strategic advocacy with a compassionate, steady approach, helping clients navigate emotionally charged disputes while safeguarding their interests.

Known for her practical, client-focused style, Melissa takes the time to understand each client's goals and concerns before developing a tailored strategy. Whether pursuing a negotiated amicable resolution or litigating aggressively when necessary, she provides clear guidance throughout the process and works to achieve efficient, favorable outcomes.

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In her free time, Melissa enjoys spending time with her husband, two children, and their Goldendoodle, Wilbur, in Haddonfield, New Jersey. She can often be found at her children's soccer games, T-ball fields, and dance competitions, or skiing and boating with her family. A passionate traveler, she loves exploring new cultures and cuisines, with favorite destinations including Botswana and Sicily. She enjoys unwinding with a good mystery book by the lake in Vermont or on the Jersey shore.

EXPERIENCE

Melissa has experience representing individuals, fiduciaries, financial institutions, universities, and charitable organizations in a wide range of estate, trust, and guardianship disputes. Some of her representative matters include:

- Successfully obtained dismissal of a will challenge on the return date on behalf of an executor.
- Survived a Motion to Dismiss for Lack of Jurisdiction in a multi-State contested guardianship.
- Handled the termination of several uneconomical charitable trusts for a corporate trustee.
- Defended an agent under a power of attorney in Orphans' Court.
- Represented a University in several successful applications to modify scholarships and prize funds under UPMIFA.
- Obtained countless settlements on behalf of individuals and institutions regarding disputes as to fiduciary compensation, fiduciary removal actions, and will and trust disputes.

NEWS & INSIGHTS

Obermayer Attorneys Recognized in the 2027 Best Lawyers Awards

August 21, 2026 by Melissa Osorio Dibble, Meredith A. Lowry, Kelly M. Barry, Jill Spevack Di Sciullo, Caitlin E. Foley, Darwin R. Beauvais, Rebecca A. Berger, Allison J. Burkhardt, Stephanie Stecklair Tarantino, Amanda C. Frett, Nathan D. Fox, Kellie A. McGowan, W. Patrick Scott, Matthew S. Olesh, Michael A. Thom, Marcelina R. Policicchio, Mathieu J. Shapiro, Walter W. Cohen, Stephanie H. Winegrad, Shari B. Veisblatt, Alex Basilevsky, Adam H. Tanker, Tara K. Burns, Michael D. Vagnoni, Nina B. Stryker, Leslie B. Spoltore, Nicholas Poduslenko, Michael S. Pepperman, Hillary J. Moonay, Thomas A. Leonard III, David L. Ladov, Paul C. Heintz, Samantha J. Evian, Julie R. Colton, Michael E. Bertin, David A. Nasatir

Melissa Osorio Dibble Reappointed to Leadership Roles in American Bar Association Section of Real Property, Trust and Estate Law

July 29, 2026 by Melissa Osorio Dibble

Melissa Osorio Dibble to Speak on Estate Planning and Charitable Giving

September 15, 2026 by Melissa Osorio Dibble

Melissa Osorio Dibble Brings Trial Experience and Fiduciary Litigation Skills to Lead Obermayer's Trusts & Estates Department

June 17, 2026 by Melissa Osorio Dibble, Mathieu J. Shapiro, Nina B. Stryker, Paul C. Heintz

ACTIVITIES & HONORS

Melissa is a Fellow of The American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC) and serves on its

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Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity Committee, Fiduciary Litigation Committee, and Professional Responsibility Committee.

She is also an active member of the American Bar Association's Section of Real Property, Trust and Estate Law, where she serves as Co-Chair of the Professional Responsibility Committee and is a member of the Leadership and Mentoring Committee.

In addition, Melissa serves on the Board of Trustees of Samaritan.

Melissa was named to the 2027 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*© for her work in Litigation – Trusts and Estates.

She is a frequent speaker on estate and trust litigation topics and has authored articles on the doctrine of writings intended as wills and the Uniform Trust Code.

Due to her time at Bryn Mawr and the lifelong relationships built there, Melissa has an enduring commitment to women's education and the advancement of women's leadership.

EDUCATION

Rutgers University School of Law, JD
Bryn Mawr College, BA, *cum laude*
Studied abroad at the University of Edinburgh.

ADMISSIONS

New Jersey

Pennsylvania

United States District Court for the District of New Jersey

United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

CAPABILITIES

Trusts & Estates

Charitable Giving

Estate and Trust Planning

Fiduciary Litigation

Trust & Estate Administration

Industry Focus

Financial Services

Individuals & Private Clients

Nonprofit Organizations

Universities & Secondary Schools

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Bankruptcy & Business Reorganizations

Fiduciary Representation

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