

Michael Droke

Partner

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Mike strives to understand his clients' business operations and goals, and tune his legal representation to those objectives.

Mike started his career as a client, not a lawyer. He represented the same company where he worked in management, thus "walking both sides of the street." As a lawyer, Mike had devoted his practice to practical, results-oriented advice and litigation representation in situations where the law, facts, or business risks are ambiguous.

Mike's practice is devoted to advising cooperatives, food, and agriculture businesses. He is firm-wide co-chair of the 200-lawyer Food, Beverages & Agriculture industry group. He acts as outside general counsel in that industry, handles corporate governance, and manages complicated domestic and international transactions.

On the business side, Mike developed Dorsey's LegalMine Document Review Solution from concept to operation. He has also held leadership roles as Office Head for Seattle (where he negotiated a large office move, and the office was named one of Washington's Best Workplaces) and as co-head of the Labor & Employment and other practice groups.

Select Experience

Food and Agriculture

- Represented US\$2 Billion cooperative in multiple matters, including governance, risk management and mitigation, commercial contracts, strategic advice, and other legal issues.
- Represented US\$1 Billion agricultural producer in reorganization from LLC to cooperative in to qualify for IRS Code 199A(g) benefit.
- Represented Northwest Grain Growers Cooperative in its merger with Mid Columbia

Education

- Santa Clara University School of Law (J.D., 1992)
 - *summa cum laude*
 - Editor-In-Chief, Santa Clara Law Review
- University of California, Berkeley (A.B., 1986)

Bar Admissions

- Washington
- California

Producers.

- Represented Washington-based Chelan Fruit Cooperative in its merger with International Farming.

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California
- U.S. District Court for the Central District of California
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

Professional Affiliations

- Trustee, Washington Athletic Club Board of Governors, Executive Committee member Chair of Food & Beverage Committee
- Speaker, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, Legal, Tax / Accounting Committee
- Member, National Society of Accountants for Cooperatives
- Founding Member and Past President, Association for Corporate Growth

Accolades

- *Chambers USA*, Labor & Employment, Washington, 2009-2026
- *Best Lawyers in America*®, Employment Law, Labor Law Management, Labor and Employment Litigation, 2007-2026
- *Washington Super Lawyer*®, 2003, 2005-2026
- *Thomson Reuters*, "Stand-Out Lawyer", 2024-2025
- Contributed more than 50 Diversity hours, 2023
- Dorsey & Whitney – Scales of Justice Team Award (The World Ventilator Foundation), 2021
- *Best Lawyers in America Employment Law Issue*, 2021
- Rated AV Preeminent® ([highest possible for legal skills and ethics](#)) by [Martindale-Hubbell](#)®
- *Madison*, "Who's Who Among American Professionals", 2006-present

Languages

- German (conversational)
- Spanish (conversational)
- Italian (conversational)

Additional Information

Cooperative Business Law: A Practical Guide to the Special Laws Governing Cooperatives



Select Presentations

- Surviving the Food Recall, Consumer Cooperative Management Association Tour, June 7, 2019
- How to Survive a Food Recall, NSAC Western Chapter Meeting, May 24, 2019
- Webinar Playback: Prop 65 Risks for Food & Beverage Industry, January 30, 2019
- Risk Management and Ethics for In-House Counsel Seminar, September 25, 2017

Insights

March 31, 2026

Washington State Prohibits Non-Competes and Many Non-Solicitation Agreements

January 27, 2026

Trump Administration's Anti-DEI Effort Comes for Section 8(a) Program—Small Businesses and Alaska Native Corporations May be the Next Targets of Significant Federal Change and Scrutiny

December 3, 2025

Rising Class Actions in Washington State Over Employee Handbooks

September 8, 2025

Applicants Do Not Need to Be “Bona Fide” Under the Washington Equal Pay and Opportunities Act, but Washington Supreme Court Leaves Open Several Other Defenses

May 27, 2025

Striking Workers in Washington Will Be Eligible to Receive Unemployment Benefits

February 5, 2025

Washington Employers Must Be Careful about Which Employees are Required to Enter into Non-Compete Agreements

September 30, 2024

Yes, You Can Be Liable for Your Employee’s Online Posts!

September 24, 2021

Washington’s Travel Time Trap for Employers

June 26, 2021

Farm to Table Talk Podcast: Labor Supremes – Michael Droke

June 23, 2021

Dorsey Partner Mike Droke Discusses SCOTUS Ruling in Favor of Growers Property Rights

June 23, 2021

U.S. Supreme Court Decision Affects California Agricultural Growers

January 15, 2021

Nomads Working from Anywhere

November 9, 2020

Washington Dairy Workers Now Entitled to Overtime Pay

October 23, 2020

Dorsey Partner Mike Droke Comments on CA Uber, Lyft Drivers Now Employees

July 29, 2020

Dorsey Partner Mike Droke Discusses 5 Ways to Keep Retail Foodservice Alive