

**Laurel Pyke Malson**

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**Practice Areas**

- Administrative & Regulatory
- Appellate
- Litigation
- International Business
- International Dispute Resolution
- International Litigation
- University Practice

**Laurel Pyke Malson** is a partner in Crowell & Moring's DC-based Litigation Group, specializing in international and governmental litigation, alternative dispute resolution, and complex commercial and administrative litigation.

She routinely counsels foreign and domestic clients regarding litigation risk management in the U.S. federal and state courts; and has litigated extensively under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act, Federal Tort Claims Act, the International Claims Settlement Act, and other "public law" provisions where foreign and U.S. government, and related entities, are involved. She also has litigated numerous class-actions under, *e.g.*, the Equal Educational Opportunities Act, the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act, state consumer fraud provisions, and other matters involving academic misconduct allegations, in addition to a broad range of business and individual torts, including civil rights and constitutional violations. In addition, Ms. Malson has counseled and litigated on behalf of a variety of public and private entities, including public school systems and universities, academic medical centers and other health care providers, and professional and trade associations. She also serves as a mediator and arbitrator in a wide range of disputes, with a focus on commercial and employment matters.

Recent representations include: advocating for victims of Libyan State-sponsored terrorism before the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States; defending a large urban public school system in class action and US enforcement action involving English Language Learners under Title VI and the Equal Educational Opportunities Act; defending the District of Columbia Public Schools in a major class action under the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act; defending the American Psychiatric Association in the Ritalin and ECT class action litigations in multiple state and federal jurisdictions; and actions on behalf of thousands of African American farmers against the U.S. Department of Agriculture to redress claims of discrimination in credit transactions. She also is a key member of the team that secured a \$6 billion judgment on behalf of the estates and family members of seven U.S. nationals that perished, and the U.S. owner of the aircraft that was

destroyed, in the 1989 bombing of UTA Flight 772 over the Sahara Desert. (*Pugh v. Libya*, Case No. 02-2026 (D.D.C.))

Ms. Malson is a Mediator for the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, and she chaired the Committee on Grievances for the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia from 2001 to 2004. She currently serves on the National Panel of Distinguished Neutrals for the International Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution ("CPR"), as well as CPR's HealthCare and Life Sciences Panel.

Before entering private practice in 1985, Ms. Malson served in the Office of Legal Counsel of the U.S. Department of Justice for four years, where she was responsible for a broad range of constitutional and federal statutory matters.

She served as a member of the DC Circuit Advisory Committee on Procedures from 1986 to 1991. Ms. Malson clerked for the Honorable Harry T. Edwards on the United States Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit (1980-1981) and the Hon. Damon J. Keith on the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit (1979-1980). She received her JD from Harvard Law School in 1979, and her BA from Wesleyan University in 1976.

#### **Professional Activities and Memberships**

International Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution ("CPR") -- Executive Advisory Committee (CPR)

National Panel of Distinguished Neutrals (CPR)

HealthCare and Life Sciences Panel (CPR)

Winner, 2010 CPR's Award for Outstanding Contribution to Diversity

Co-Chair, National Task Force on Diversity (CPR)

U.S. District Court, District of Columbia -- Panel of Mediators

U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia Committee on Grievances, Chair, 2001-2004

District of Columbia Appleseed Center for Law and Justice, Board of Directors, 1994-1998

DC Circuit Advisory Committee on Procedures, 1986-1991

American Bar Association -- International Law Section; Litigation Section

International Bar Association -- Litigation Section

#### **Recent Representations**

- *Claim of Donna Marlowe, Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the U.S., Libya Program* (\$3 million award).
- *In re Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation*, No. 08-mc-511 (D.D.C.) (Class action discrimination in USDA farm loan program resulting in \$1.25 billion settlement)
- *Pugh v. Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, et al.* (D.D.C.) (awarded \$6.1 billion judgment, January 24, 2008); *Pugh v. Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, et al.*, No. 02-2026 (D.D.C. Sept. 3,

2006) *aff'd*, No. 06-7167 (DC Cir. April 8, 2007) (unpublished order granting summary affirmance)

- *Smith v. Hope Village, Inc.*, 481 F.Supp. 172 (D.D.C. 2007) (wrongful death action against U.S. Bureau of Prisons and contracting halfway house)
- *Petties v. District of Columbia*, (1:95-CV-00148) (class action under IDEA for educational and related services)
- *Fair-Gray v. United States, Case No. 03-01372* (D.D.C.) (FTCA wrongful death claim arising from automobile accident with USAID employee in Kenya)

### Education

- Wesleyan University, B.A. (1976)
- Harvard Law School, J.D. (1979)

### Affiliations

Admitted to practice: District of Columbia; U.S. Supreme Court; U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit; U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia