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Michele R. Stafford, a California-based attorney, is a partner at Tucker Arensberg LLP. Her practice focuses on the representation of joint union-management employee benefit trust clients in ERISA litigation matters, including collection of delinquent employer contributions, withdrawal liability, bankruptcy and the defense of benefit determinations before the United States District Court. Michele also has represented apprenticeship trusts in claims made before the Fair Employment and Housing Agency (FEHA) and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). Prior to her experience in the field of employee benefits, she specialized in construction litigation, including mechanic's liens, stop notices and delay claims, and she conducted multiple jury trials. In addition to her litigation practice, Michele has created comprehensive educational programs for trust funds, unions and employer associations with the goal of improving employer compliance with trust fund obligations, reducing delinquencies and supporting positive relationships with both unions and trust funds. She has been a speaker and a collections roundtable participant at previous International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT) Professional Forums. Michele has also spoken at multiple International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans educational conferences.