

Attorney Directory Prepared for the 2025 CCWC Conference



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Related Services

Litigation
Labor & Employment
Education
DEI Strategy

Education

University of Virginia (J.D., 2010)

Dartmouth College (A.B., 2007)

Admitted to Practice

Georgia

Alexandra Garrison Barnett

Partner

Alex Barnett is a pragmatic and strategic attorney who represents employers in a wide variety of labor and employment and litigation matters. She counsels and defends employers in actions brought under state common law and federal law, including Title VII, the ADA, ADEA, FLSA, and FMLA. Her practice also includes defending employers in complex employment class actions, representing clients in restrictive covenant litigation, conducting internal investigations, and advising on employment-related issues arising in corporate transactions. Alex routinely counsels clients in a variety of industries on employment actions, policies, and practices; employment agreements and separation agreements; and compliance with federal and state laws. She co-leads the firm's DEI Strategy Team, helping clients navigate the impact of the evolving legal landscape on their diversity, equity, and inclusion programs and initiatives.

Alex received her J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law, where she was on the editorial board of the *Journal of Law & Politics*. Before law school, she earned her undergraduate degree, magna cum laude, with high honors in Romance languages from Dartmouth College. Upon graduation, Alex received the Philip D. McInnis '36 Award, which is presented annually to the woman in the senior class who contributed most significantly to the college through her depth of integrity and character, capacity for leadership, academic achievement, and commitment to the life of the community.

Representative Experience

- Auditing, evaluating, and assessing clients' DEI policies, programs, and initiatives.
- Training clients about DEI-related legal and legislative developments and executive and agency activity.
- Defending a telecommunications company against claims advanced under Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Representing an insurance company in arbitration proceedings against claims asserted under federal and state laws.
- Conducting internal investigations, including investigations of harassment and discrimination claims alleged against executives and senior leaders.
- Conducting workplace training programs for in-house attorneys and human resources representatives on harassment, personnel policies, wage-and-hour, and other compliance issues.
- Drafting and revising employee handbooks and other policies for clients with a variety of business needs.
- Represented one of the world's largest parcel delivery and logistics companies in defending employment discrimination and retaliation lawsuits and administrative charges.
- Defended a multinational beverage company against threatened claims and litigation brought under Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Defending a higher educational institution against a former student's lawsuit alleging Title IX and state law claims.
- Obtained summary judgment in a former university professor's age and sex discrimination and constructive discharge lawsuit filed in federal court.

**Mona Bhalla**

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Related Services

Insurance
Insurance Regulatory Guidance
Insurance Litigation & Regulation
Mergers & Acquisitions
Policy Drafting and Product Development
Capital Markets & Securities

Education

New York University (J.D., 1994)

Columbia University (B.A., 1991)

Admitted to Practice

New York

Mona Bhalla

Partner

Mona Bhalla brings extensive expertise in the supervision and regulation of the insurance industry and has developed a multifaceted skill set that allows her to provide financial services companies with unparalleled insights, advice, and counsel. Her experience spans regulatory compliance, corporate governance, securities law, and strategic transactions, making her an asset for navigating complex legal challenges in the insurance industry.

Through her work with the New York State Department of Financial Services (NYDFS), Mona established standards for financial solvency, market conduct, and corporate oversight, and, together with her team, ensured compliance with such standards, laws, and regulations through frequent testing and monitoring. During her time at the NYDFS, she supervised and managed the NYDFS Life Insurance Bureau and its 132 full-time employees, whose responsibilities included the examination and regulation of all life insurers and related entities licensed in New York State and compliance with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) accreditation program.

In private practice, Mona advised clients on capital markets and securities, general corporate matters and governance, private and public M&A, and venture capital and private equity transactions. She served as corporate secretary and senior corporate counsel for several diversified financial services firms, including two publicly traded organizations, and is well-versed in the Securities Act of 1933, Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Investment Company Act of 1940, and Investment Advisers Act of 1940.

Representative Experience

- Insurance regulatory counsel for one of the leading investment firms, including providing strategic regulatory advice nationwide, identifying insurance-related risks associated with private equity deals, and ensuring compliance with NAIC and state insurance laws and regulations.
- Advising on the use of artificial intelligence and machine learning to stay in compliance with enacted legislation and guidance.
- Advising on insurance regulatory issues associated with M&A and other strategic transactions.
- Advising on regulatory compliance issues pertaining to financial solvency, market conduct, and corporate oversight.
- Providing regulatory and transactional counseling regarding reinsurance arrangements.
- Advising on the licensure of insurance companies and insurance producers and related compensation structuring.
- Supervised and regulated the entire life insurance industry in New York State, primarily through the establishment of standards for financial solvency, market conduct, and corporate oversight; the promulgation of regulations; and the monitoring of compliance by over 630 regulated entities.
- Advised the superintendent and executive deputy superintendent of NYDFS on issues pertaining to the life insurance industry and the regulatory process.



Elizabeth Broadway Brown

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Related Services

Business Litigation
Litigation
Class Action & Multidistrict Litigation
Privacy, Cyber & Data Strategy
Antitrust
Privacy & Cybersecurity Litigation
Health Care Litigation

Education

University of Georgia (J.D., 2010)

Florida A&M University
(B.S., 2004)

Admitted to Practice

Georgia

Elizabeth Broadway Brown

Partner

Liz Broadway Brown co-chairs Alston & Bird's Health Care Litigation Team and has significant experience defending Fortune 500 companies in multiple industries in complex and high-profile litigation nationwide.

Liz has represented clients before federal and state trial and appellate courts and arbitration panels across the country in cases involving health care, privacy, ERISA, antitrust, RICO, and numerous state consumer protection and deceptive trade practices act claims. Liz is also member of the firm's Class Action & MDL Team, and *The Best Lawyers in America*® recognizes her as a leading class action and commercial litigation attorney.

Liz was named to the *Daily Report's* "On the Rise" class of 2020—an elite group of Georgia's most promising lawyers under the age of 40—and to the *Atlanta Business Chronicle's* and The National Black Lawyers' "Top 40 Under 40" lists. She is also recognized as a *Super Lawyer* by *Atlanta Magazine* and is a member of the Leadership Atlanta Class of 2024.

Liz was appointed to a three-year term on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia's Magistrate Judge Merit Selection Panel in 2022. In that role, she assists the district judges in the selection, appointment, and reappointment of magistrate judges in the district.

Representative Experience

- Counsel for a Fortune 100 health care company in multidistrict litigation relating to insulin pricing.
- Counsel for a Fortune 100 health care company facing multiple class actions relating to EpiPen pricing.
- Counsel for a major health plan and insurance company in a multimillion-dollar billing dispute with a health system.
- Counsel for a leading health care company in a threatened contract dispute with a provider.
- Counsel for a leading automobile manufacturer in a nationwide class action alleging a design defect in certain of its vehicles.
- Defeated class certification in a putative nationwide ERISA class action brought against a major health care company.
- Defeated class certification in a putative nationwide class action brought against a leading rent-to-own retailer in Pennsylvania federal court.
- Defeated class certification in a putative nationwide class action filed against a payment processing services company alleging Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and RICO claims.
- Represented major wireless network provider and student loan servicer in putative class actions alleging Fair Credit Reporting Act claims.
- Represented multiple retailers facing nationwide class action litigation arising out of data breaches.
- Represented pharmaceutical company in government investigations into alleged reverse payment settlement agreements.



Tara E. Castillo

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Related Services

Corporate & Finance
Capital Markets & Securities
Structured & Warehouse Finance
Finance
Auto Finance
Environmental, Social &
Governance (ESG)
Timeshare Finance
Credit Card Securitizations

Education

American University (J.D., 2007)

New York University (M.A., 2003)

American University (B.A., 2002)

Admitted to Practice

District of Columbia
New York

Tara E. Castillo

Partner

Tara Eliza Castillo co-leads the firm's Finance Group. Tara represents clients in complex structured finance transactions, including warehouse facilities, securitizations, and other asset-backed transactions, in the U.S. and abroad. Financing and acquisitions of auto loans and leases, consumer loans, credit card receivables, elective medical health receivables, lease-to-own receivables, merchant cash advances, solar loans, and timeshare receivables make up a significant portion of her practice.

Tara advises fintech platforms in connection with bank partnerships and forward flow arrangements. Tara's expertise also includes series trusts and titling trusts for the financing of traditional revolving assets, as well as non-revolving assets.

Tara is a recognized industry speaker and has lectured at the Universidad Diego Portales and Universidad de Chile law schools in Santiago, Chile. She is part of the PLI's faculty for the annual "New Developments in Securitization" seminar. Tara is also the author of the "Securitization Readiness Considerations for Consumer Finance Companies," "Auto Loan Securitizations," and "Timeshare Loan Securitizations" chapters in the *Securitization: Legal and Regulatory Issues* treatise.

Tara is a leading securitization lawyer in *Chambers Global* and *Chambers USA* (Capital Markets: Securitisation), IFLR1000 (Capital Markets: Structured Finance and Securitisation) as "highly regarded" and Women Leaders, and *The Best Lawyers in America*® in securitization and structured finance law (2019–2023).

Tara is counsel to the Structured Finance Association and serves on the cabinet of the Women in Securitization.

Representative Experience

- Represented a subprime auto lender in the securitization of residuals from multiple term securitizations structured to comply with risk retention regulations using a majority-owned affiliate.
- Counsel to a diversified consumer finance company in its issuance of \$200 million of notes backed by personal consumer loans.
- Counsel to the borrower in a \$750 million warehouse facility that was one of the first deals in the structured finance industry to leverage ESG-based key performance pricing.
- Represented the U.S. finance subsidiary of a global automobile manufacturer in its public auto securitization program and executed 29 public auto securitization transactions totaling \$35 billion.
- Issuer's counsel to an auto finance platform specializing in first-time auto buyers in its warehouse financings and securitizations of auto receivables.
- Issuer's counsel to a seasoned publicly traded independent auto finance company that provides indirect auto financing in connection with its 144A securitization program involving auto loans.
- Counsel to a publicly traded consumer finance company in its warehouse and 144A securitization program involving hard-secured and soft-secured consumer loans.
- Counsel to a publicly traded timeshare finance company in its warehouse and 144A securitization program involving timeshare receivables.



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Related Services

Securities Litigation
Litigation
Special Purpose Acquisition
Companies (SPACs)
White Collar, Government &
Internal Investigations
M&A Litigation

Education

The University of North Carolina
(J.D., 2009)

Cornell University (B.S., 2002)

Admitted to Practice

Georgia
Massachusetts
New York

Elizabeth Gingold Clark

Partner

Elizabeth Gingold Clark focuses her practice on representing public companies and financial institutions in securities class actions, shareholder derivative suits, M&A litigation, and government investigations.

Elizabeth's national practice includes civil matters in federal and state courts throughout the country. She also regularly represents clients in investigations by the Securities and Exchange Commission and other regulators. Elizabeth counsels companies on securities disclosure and corporate governance, and she has served as counsel to special litigation committees formed in response to shareholder derivative demands. Elizabeth is a regular speaker and author on the latest trends in securities litigation.

Elizabeth received her J.D. from The University of North Carolina School of Law. Elizabeth received her B.S. from Cornell University's School of Hotel Administration. Elizabeth is recognized by *Chambers USA* in Band 3 for Litigation: Securities in Georgia. Before attending law school, Elizabeth worked in event management for both ARAMARK and Starwood Hotels & Resorts.

Elizabeth serves on Alston & Bird's Women's Initiative and also serves on the board of directors of Global Village Project and the Atlanta Women's Foundation. Elizabeth is also co-chair of the Legal Panel for Jewish Family & Career Services in Atlanta.

Representative Experience

- Representing Humana Inc. and its former executives in a putative shareholder class action filed in the District of Delaware alleging that the defendants violated Sections 10(b) and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act by making materially false and misleading statements related to Medicare Advantage plans and the ratings by CMS.
- Represented MiMedx Group Inc. in a securities class action in Georgia federal court, where the client's motion to dismiss was granted, the court subsequently denied the plaintiff's post-judgment motions, and the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the decisions granting the motion to dismiss and denying the plaintiff's post-judgment motions. The Eleventh Circuit affirmed the district court's decision that the plaintiff failed to plead the loss causation element of its claim, and the Eleventh Circuit further affirmed the district court's denial of the plaintiff's motion for leave to amend. *Carpenters Pension Fund of Ill. v. MiMedx Group Inc.*, 2023 U.S. App. LEXIS 17370 (11th Cir.); *In re MiMedx Group, Inc. Securities Litigation*, No. 1:18-cv-00830 (N.D. Ga.).
- Represented First Connecticut Bancorp Inc. and its former board members in a securities class action arising out of First Connecticut's merger with People's United. The motion for summary judgment was granted and the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the decision granting the summary judgment motion. The Fourth Circuit affirmed the district court's decision that the plaintiff failed to prove the materiality or loss causation elements of his claim. *Karp v. First Connecticut Bancorp Inc.*, 69 F.4th 223 (4th Cir.); *Karp v. First Connecticut Bancorp Inc.*, No. 18-cv-02496 (D. Md.).

**Michelle A. Clark**

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Related Services

Intellectual Property
Intellectual Property Litigation
Trade Secrets

Education

Northwestern University
(J.D., 2005)

University of California,
Berkeley (B.A., 2001)

Admitted to Practice

California

Michelle A. Clark

Partner

Michelle Clark has a wealth of experience representing companies in trade secret, patent, contract, inventorship, and unfair competition matters. She has tried cases involving telecommunications, semiconductors, data processing, and medical technology before various U.S. district courts, state courts, and before the U.S. International Trade Commission.

Representative Experience

- Managed co-pending, offensive district court actions brought by a semiconductor client against a leading technology company for infringement of various cellular data processing technologies.
- Took and defended depositions, engaged in extensive electronic discovery, prevailed on summary adjudication and *Daubert* motions, and represented the client at trial.
- Defended an AI-based cybersecurity software platform against patent infringement claims brought by a competitor relating to mobile authentication using digital biometrics, resulting in victory on summary judgment. Took and defended fact and expert depositions, prepared expert reports, collaboratively prepared comprehensive summary judgment motion and parallel invalidity challenges, and negotiated final resolution of all claims.
- Litigated an inventorship claim brought by a competitor relating to balloon catheter technology, including conducting written discovery, taking the plaintiff's deposition, and preparing a motion for summary judgment. After a successful dispositive motion practice, the parties' dispute was settled on a global basis on terms highly favorable to the client.
- Coordinated plaintiff-side litigation in three different patent cases related to network storage infrastructure against multiple defendants and intervenors through all stages of litigation up to trial, resulting in a lucrative settlement for the plaintiff. Managed discovery, prepared and defended fact and expert witnesses, and drafted liability and damages expert reports.
- Managed an ITC investigation brought by the client against a competitor for infringement of patents relating to MEMS technology, including conducting discovery, filing pre-hearing briefing, and presenting witnesses at the hearing. The matter was resolved on terms highly favorable to the client mid-hearing.
- Managed offensive copyright claims against a competitor relating to online social gaming platforms, including taking and defending depositions, preparing expert reports, and filing dispositive motions. The matter settled as part of a global settlement reached between the parties on terms favorable to the client.
- Represented a satellite and space technology company in offensive trade secret litigation against a competitor, including taking and defending depositions, preparing for a pre-hearing briefing, and prevailing on motion for case-dispositive sanctions relating to the spoliation of evidence.
- Assisted the client in a complex partnership dissolution dispute including copyright, trade secret, employment, and breach of contract claims resolved through presentation of the matter to a mediator for an advisory opinion. Settled on highly favorable terms for the client.



Theresa Conduah

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Related Services

Intellectual Property
Trademark & Copyright
Intellectual Property Litigation
Food & Beverage
Gray Market & Counterfeit
Goods

Education

Fordham University (J.D., 2005)

Johns Hopkins University
(M.P.H., 2002)

Georgetown University
(B.A., 1997)

Admitted to Practice

California
New York
North Carolina
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
U.S. Supreme Court

Theresa Conduah

Partner

Theresa Conduah is a partner in the Intellectual Property Litigation Group. She focuses her practice on trademark and copyright portfolio management, licensing, and enforcement strategies, and IP litigation.

Theresa has experience in the technology, consumer products, entertainment, and sports industries. She counsels clients in developing and scaling global IP portfolios, design patents, global brand protection, and anti-counterfeit programs. She has prosecuted dozens of Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy cases before the National Arbitration Forum and the World Intellectual Property Organization.

Theresa is recognized as a leading trademark professional in California by WTR 1000 (2022–2025) and noted as “an incredibly smart lawyer who possesses unique insight thanks to vast in-house experience.” She is also a frequent speaker on intellectual property, brand protection, and diversity issues in the law.

Representative Experience

- Managed the global rebranding of a major airline following a merger, including trademark records, clearances, and international filing strategy.
- Obtained an injunction for a plaintiff in a trade dress and trademark infringement dispute concerning the use of a famed golf course in a video game.

**Cari K. Dawson**

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Related Services

Litigation
Products Liability
Privacy, Cyber & Data Strategy
Mass Torts & Toxic Torts
Class Action & Multidistrict Litigation
Insurance
Retail
Environmental Litigation
Artificial Intelligence (AI)
Insurance Litigation & Regulation

Education

Harvard University (J.D., 1993)

Princeton University (A.B., 1990)

Admitted to Practice

Georgia

Cari K. Dawson

Partner

Cari Dawson is a creative problem solver, legal strategist, and committed advocate. She co-chairs the Class Action & MDL Team and has a winning track record defending Fortune 500 companies as lead counsel in high-profile enterprise litigation nationwide. Cari assists clients in the areas of commercial litigation, strategic counseling, and crisis management.

In 2024, Cari was named, for the ninth time, one of the “Top 250 Women in Litigation” in the U.S. by *Benchmark Litigation*, which noted: “Dawson has developed a practice defending hundreds of class actions in a variety of industry sectors.” In 2019, Cari was featured as one of Harvard Law School’s distinguished alumnae in an article highlighting her “grit, fearlessness, and flair for the creative.”

Cari has consistently been recognized by *Chambers USA* and by *Best Lawyers in America*®. In 2024, Cari was honored with the Cora T. Walker Award, which recognizes a National Bar Association member who has a long-standing history of supporting the Commercial Law Section and promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in the legal profession. In 2018, Cari was honored by the National Black Law Students Association with its Sadie T.M. Alexander Women in Leadership Award. In 2013, the *National Law Journal* named Cari one of the “100 Most Influential Lawyers in America” for her work as lead class action counsel in the [Toyota Unintended Acceleration MDL](#).

Representative Experience

- National coordinating counsel for a leading global property and casualty insurer in connection with its COVID-19 business interruption coverage class actions.
- Defending the largest property and casualty insurer in the U.S. in cost of insurance class action litigation in Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, and Washington and serving as coordinating counsel for all of its cost of insurance class actions nationwide.
- Lead class action defense counsel to a German luxury car manufacturer and its exclusive U.S. importer in multidistrict litigation in San Francisco in the Volkswagen “Clean Diesel” MDL.
- Lead class action defense counsel to Mazda in multidistrict litigation in Miami following widely publicized vehicle recalls relating to allegedly defective Takata airbags.
- Co-lead class action defense counsel to a multinational home improvement retailer in multidistrict litigation in Atlanta following a widely publicized criminal cyber intrusion and data breach.
- Co-lead class action defense counsel to Noramco in the National Prescription Opiate MDL in Cleveland.
- Defeated certification as lead class action defense counsel for an American multinational automobile manufacturer in consumer class actions in Washington and Missouri. Currently defending the company in a consumer class action in Michigan.
- Lead class action defense counsel to an American multinational retail corporation in a consumer class action in Atlanta.
- Defended numerous insurance class actions in the property and casualty, life, disability, accident, and health industries in a variety of complex litigation matters, including class actions, regulatory matters, coverage disputes, and bad-faith litigation.

**Maki DePalo**

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Related Services

Corporate & Business
Transactions
Privacy, Cyber & Data Strategy
Intellectual Property
Advertising
Intellectual Property Licensing
Transactions
IP and IT Audits and Due
Diligence
Technology
IP & Software Licensing
Technology Transfer &
Complex Licensing
Global Services
Japan
M&A, Corporate & Finance -
Japanese Business Team
Intellectual Property -
Japanese Business Team

Education

Georgia State University (J.D.)

Indiana University -
Bloomington (M.S.)

Meiji University (B.S.)

Admitted to Practice

Georgia

Maki DePalo

Partner

Maki DePalo is a client advocate and problem solver who counsels clients on privacy and cybersecurity compliance, AI and data strategies and governance, and complex outsourcing and technology transaction matters. She advises companies on designing and operationalizing data protection programs for compliance with state-level comprehensive privacy laws, using a keen understanding of the intersections of laws and regulations impacting consumer privacy, children's privacy, health privacy, financial privacy, and employee privacy.

As the AI legal landscape continues to develop, Maki collaborates with clients' cross-functional teams to develop and implement enterprise-level governance models customized to meet their compliance needs, as well as the goals of their business. Maki also advises on general corporate matters, enabling clients of various sizes and industries to navigate business challenges as they arise.

For over a decade before becoming a lawyer, Maki served as a technical and business transformation leader for one of the world's largest IT and security services companies, delivering method-based consultation, solution design, and IT infrastructure service management to navigate and implement cutting-edge technologies.

Representative Experience

- Counsel to top-tier corporations across a variety of industry sectors, including health care, retail, food services, manufacturing, financial services, and gaming and platform services, for data privacy and cybersecurity compliance programs, including the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA), Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), Washington state My Health My Data Act, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (GLBA).
- Advising clients on the design, implementation, and operation of effective privacy and cybersecurity compliance programs, including support for policymaking, framework building, data governance, data analytics, privacy impact assessments, and global tabletop exercises.
- Counsel to clients across multiple industries in strategizing for and adopting AI governance, information governance, and records and information management (RIM) programs.
- Representing clients navigating privacy disputes and litigation.
- Representing clients in various industries to conduct privacy and cybersecurity due diligence reviews as part of vendor-vetting and M&A transactions.
- Counsel to health care institutions, insurance institutions, and other multinational corporations in the negotiation of strategic and complex IT outsourcing, technology and data licensing, and data processing agreements.
- Counsel to a leading health care products and services provider in a series of IT transactions and strategic initiatives.
- Represented multiple health care providers in the procurement of strategic health care IT platforms.
- Represented clients in diverse industries for marketing and advertising initiatives, online marketing and behavioral advertising, games of chance, contests, and rebate programs.
- Counsel to foreign corporations on entry into the U.S. market, including support for due diligence, economic incentives, and governmental reporting.

**Jordan Webber Edwards**

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Related Services

Litigation
Class Action & Multidistrict
Litigation
Business Litigation
White Collar, Government &
Internal Investigations
Health Care Litigation
Education
False Claims Act
Corporate Compliance
Programs

Education

Emory University (J.D., 2015)
Spelman College (B.A., 2011)

Admitted to Practice

Georgia

Jordan Webber Edwards

Partner

Jordan Webber Edwards focuses her practice on representing Fortune 500 and other companies across a wide array of industries in complex, high-profile litigation throughout the country. She has defended clients before federal and state trial and appellate courts and arbitration panels in cases involving health care, RICO, ERISA, antitrust, the False Claims Act, and numerous state consumer-fraud laws, and she has also represented companies and executives in sensitive government and internal investigations. Jordan was recognized in the 2023–2025 editions of *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business* as an "Associate to Watch" in Georgia in Litigation: White Collar Crime & Government Investigations, and she has also been recognized in *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch®* for her work in commercial litigation, health care law, and white-collar criminal defense.

Jordan received her J.D., with honors, from Emory University. She also obtained her B.A. in political science from Spelman College, where she graduated as valedictorian of her class.

Representative Experience

- Representing a Fortune 100 health care company in multidistrict litigation relating to insulin pricing.
- Representing a Fortune 100 health care company facing multiple class actions relating to EpiPen pricing.
- Representing a Fortune 100 health care company in multiple lawsuits related to reimbursement for COVID-19 testing services.
- Obtained a multimillion-dollar default judgment for a Fortune 50 plaintiff in a breach of contract suit.
- Represented a Fortune 50 company defending against multiple class actions filed following a major data breach.
- Obtained a favorable state supreme court decision for a higher education plaintiff in a multimillion-dollar property dispute.
- Counsel to leading consumer products manufacturer in multiple internal investigations.
- Defeated class certification in a putative nationwide ERISA class action brought against a leading health care company.
- Represented a leading automobile manufacturer engaged in multidistrict litigation following widely publicized vehicle recalls.

**Jennifer C. Everett**

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Related Services

Privacy, Cyber & Data Strategy
Privacy & Cyber Regulatory Enforcement
Technology
HIPAA/Health Information Privacy, Security & Breach Response
Emerging Technologies & Innovation
Consumer Protection/FTC
Artificial Intelligence (AI)
European Privacy & Cybersecurity
California Privacy & the CCPA
Cybersecurity & Risk Management
Crisis & Data Breach Response
Ransomware Fusion Center
Retail

Education

University of Virginia
(J.D., 2008)

Northwestern University
(B.A., 2003)

Admitted to Practice

District of Columbia
Virginia

Jennifer C. Everett

Partner

Jennifer Everett focuses on regulatory compliance, enforcement, and transactions in data privacy, cybersecurity, health care, and emerging technologies. Jennifer offers strategic guidance to public and private companies across several sectors, including life sciences and health technology, when navigating state, federal, and international privacy regulations, including the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), state-specific privacy laws, biometric regulations, children's privacy, workplace privacy, the Federal Trade Commission Act, and other U.S. consumer privacy statutes.

Jennifer oversees all aspects of U.S. and international data breach investigation and response, providing guidance on forensic investigations, notifications, and related regulatory inquiries. She has defended clients in regulatory inquiries regarding data security practices, including investigations by the FTC, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, state attorneys general, and international regulators following data security incidents. She frequently conducts training sessions for senior leadership and corporate boards, focusing on mitigating privacy and cyber risks.

With extensive knowledge of health privacy law, Jennifer provides guidance on a variety of intricate health data matters, including those governed by HIPAA and other regulations. She actively assists clients in creating privacy programs and mitigating risks related to technologies in digital health and AI-driven platforms.

Jennifer's consumer protection practice includes counseling clients on marketing and promotional issues, including interest-based ads, automatic renewal and subscriptions, SMS text messaging and telemarketing, and other state and federal consumer protection laws.

Representative Experience

- Advising numerous companies on the development of proactive compliance with emerging U.S. state comprehensive privacy laws, including the California Consumer Privacy Act of 2018 (CCPA), Virginia Consumer Data Protection Act (VCDPA), Connecticut Data Privacy Act (CTDPA), and Consumer Privacy Act, as well as topical state privacy laws relating to health and biometric data.
- Advising companies on website design and deployment of adtech and other third-party technologies to comply with laws and platform policies.
- Conducted privacy and security assessments for international SaaS platform providers and data analytics companies with operations around the globe.
- Advised smart camera companies on the deployment of smart technologies, including facial recognition.
- Counseled online services companies on emerging laws related to teen and child users, age verification, and parental consent.
- Resolved U.S. state and multistate attorney general investigations following data breaches.
- Resolved a Federal Trade Commission (FTC) investigation involving a consumer goods company.
- Represented an online financial consumer company in a state attorney general investigation following a security incident.

**Lisa L. Garcia**

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Related Services

Litigation
TCPA Counseling &
Litigation
Labor & Employment

Education

University of California,
College of the Law,
San Francisco (J.D., 2014)

University of California,
Berkeley (B.A., 2007)

Admitted to Practice

California

Lisa L. Garcia

Partner

Lisa Garcia is an experienced commercial litigator in Alston & Bird's Litigation & Trial Practice Group. Lisa represents clients across various industries in a range of matters in both state and federal courts. Lisa focuses her practice on complex business litigation, internal corporate investigations, contract disputes, privacy-related matters, consumer protection matters, food and beverage litigation, administrative procedure hearings, mass arbitrations, class actions, and franchise litigation.

Lisa also handles all types of employment cases, including single-plaintiff and class action suits involving discrimination, retaliation, wrongful termination, and harassment matters in both state and federal courts and in administrative hearings and conferences. She also provides advice and counseling to employers on a wide range of employment issues.

Lisa is recognized by *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch®* for Commercial Litigation.

Representative Experience

- Disposing of an entire case against a global clothing retail company on summary judgment with favorable results for the client.
- Defending a telecommunications company in a putative nationwide class action and mass arbitrations arising out of a data breach.
- Defending a multinational oil and gas corporation against substantial wage-and-hour claims brought by multiple plaintiffs before the California labor commissioner, resulting in a complete dismissal of the claims.
- Representing one of the nation's leading mobile communications companies; moved to compel arbitration in several lawsuits brought in both federal and state courts.
- Defending numerous clients against allegations of data privacy violations under the California Consumer Privacy Act.
- Defending one of the nation's leading mobile communications companies in a complex arbitration involving FDCPA, invasion of privacy, and TCPA claims, leading to a complete dismissal of the claims.
- Representing a global contingent workforce management company in a complex class action lawsuit involving PAGA claims.
- Representing and advising a major petroleum company on complex franchise disputes and general marketing and advertising issues with branded gasoline stations and convenience stores.
- Representing a national premier loan servicing company in an action involving wrongful foreclosure claims.
- Representing a multinational industrial minerals company in various jurisdictions in product liability matters.

**Kerri-Ann Griggs**

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Related Services

Immigration
Labor & Employment
Brazil
China
Germany
Japan
Labor & Employment - Japan
Business Team
Food & Beverage

Education

Harvard University(J.D., 2008)
Yale University (B.A., 2003)

Admitted to Practice

Georgia

Kerri-Ann Griggs

Partner

Kerri-Ann Griggs is a partner with Alston & Bird's Labor & Employment Group.

Kerri provides corporate clients with strategic solutions for their global workforce, international employment, cross-border transactions, and compliance. Kerri advises clients on various aspects of corporate immigration law, including immigrant and non-immigrant visa options. Her knowledge includes employment-based visas, permanent residency sponsorship, investment visa options, the impact of mergers and acquisitions on non-immigrant workers, Form I-9 and employment verification compliance, government investigations involving citizenship status or national origin discrimination, and litigation against the Department of Homeland Security. Kerri has established a track record of obtaining almost 100% approvals for complex business immigration cases that are challenged by the government or receive supplemental requests for evidence. Kerri is actively involved in humanitarian work helping individuals fleeing war-torn areas or persecution to resettle safely in the United States.

Kerri has been an immigration attorney for over a decade. She also served as an intern for the Hon. Clarence Cooper of the U.S. District Court of the Northern District of Georgia. She received her J.D. from Harvard Law School, where she interned with Harvard's Immigration and Refugee Clinical Program, representing asylum and VAWA applicants, and received her B.A. from Yale University.

Representative Experience

- Defending a Southeastern staffing company serving clients in the aerospace, government, and health care industries in an investigation by the Department of Justice (DOJ) Immigrant and Employee Rights Section (IER) for allegations of citizenship status discrimination in violation of the antidiscrimination provision of the Immigration and Nationality Act.
- Defending one of the largest U.S. digital cable television providers, with over 20,000 employees, in an investigation by the DOJ IER for allegations of citizenship status discrimination in violation of the antidiscrimination provision of the Immigration and Nationality Act.
- Representing one of the largest global multinational clothing retailers in immigration amendment filings related to the restructure of the organization.
- Defending one of the nation's largest suppliers of structural building products in the construction industry in an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for violations of the employment eligibility verification Form I-9 process.
- Prepared I-9 policy and conducted I-9 training for a national fast-food restaurant with more than 2,400 stores, and providing ongoing guidance on employment verification compliance.
- Conducted an I-9 training for almost 100 key personnel of a leading multinational project development and construction group and providing ongoing guidance on employment verification compliance.
- Conducting an I-9 audit involving over 10,000 employee records for an international workforce development company.
- Representing the leading provider of insurance in the United States in immigration-related, employment-based filings and permanent residence sponsorship processes before U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

**Kathy J. Huang**

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Related Services

Litigation
Class Action & Multidistrict Litigation
Financial Services Litigation
Insurance
FDA: Drug & Device
Policyholder Class Action Defense
High Exposure Claims, Coverage & Bad Faith Defense
Insurance Regulatory Guidance
Insurance-Related Antitrust Defense
Policy Drafting & Product Development
Insurance Litigation & Regulation

Education

Georgetown University
(J.D., 2005)

Stanford University (M.A., 2002)

Stanford University (B.A., 2002)

Admitted to Practice

California

Kathy J. Huang

Partner

Kathy J. Huang has a proven track record of providing valuable and strategic solutions for clients facing major exposure and bet-the-company litigation. She focuses her practice on class actions and complex commercial litigation, including defense of consumer protection, privacy, and insurance statutes in California and across the United States. Kathy routinely counsels clients on matters that can have a significant impact on a company's operations and reputation and served as co-lead defense counsel in nationwide litigation. Her clients include Fortune 500 companies in life insurance and financial services, e-commerce and fintech, nutrition and product supplement manufacturers, major sports apparel retailers and manufacturers, and health care plans.

Kathy is a member of the firm's Insurance Team, which is ranked in California by *Chambers USA*. Kathy was recognized in 2020 as one of the "Top Minority Attorneys in Los Angeles" by the *Los Angeles Business Journal*. She has been named a "Rising Star" by *Southern California Super Lawyers* for the Class Actions/Mass Torts practice area. She was also named a 2016 Next Generation Leader with The Committee of 100, a national nonpartisan leadership organization of prominent Chinese Americans in business, government, academia, and the arts. Kathy is on the firmwide Pro Bono Executive Committee as well as the executive board of Public Counsel, the nation's largest pro bono law firm.

Representative Experience

- Won a six-week jury trial in a \$75 million fraud and breach of fiduciary duty case.
- Resolved multiple class actions for e-commerce businesses alleging violations of the California Automatic Renewal Law, Consumers Legal Remedies Act, and Unfair Competition Law.
- Co-lead national counsel for two insurers in litigation arising out of a Ponzi scheme involving the sale of unregistered securities.
- Obtained favorable settlements in two class actions regarding cost-of-insurance rates for universal life policies.
- Defeated class certification in a class action with approximately \$120 million in exposure.
- Defeated class certification and won summary judgment in a national class action involving index annuity sales.
- Won summary judgment in a nationwide class action on behalf of a life insurance company in a case involving an alleged scheme to fraudulently market fixed deferred annuities.
- Won summary judgment on all claims in a case involving a failed life settlement scheme concocted by the plaintiff's agent and financial advisor.
- Secured a full defense verdict in a jury trial in favor of a life insurer against plaintiffs alleging fraud in the sale of life insurance which was affirmed on appeal.
- Obtained dismissals or defeated class certification in numerous consumer class actions alleging false advertising and violation of the unfair competition law California state and federal courts.
- Argued and won an appeal before the Ninth Circuit, resulting in a published opinion deciding two novel issues of immigration law.



Angela Payne James

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Related Services

Intellectual Property
Litigation

Education

Harvard University (J.D., 1996)

Harvard College (B.A., 1992)

Admitted to Practice

Georgia

Angela Payne James

Diversity & Inclusion Partner

As Diversity & Inclusion Partner, Angela Payne James leads Alston & Bird's governance and management of diversity and inclusion initiatives to align with the firm's overall business strategy. Before joining the firm, Angela was managing director and global chief of staff for Goldman Sachs's Technology Division. She also served on Goldman's Technology Executive Leadership Group and Technology Division Risk Committee.

Before joining Goldman, Angela was a partner with Alston & Bird's Litigation & Trial Practice and Intellectual Property Litigation groups. Angela was also a member of the firm's Diversity Steering Committee, where she helped develop firmwide strategies, programs, and panels. She also served as chair of the Diversity Committee in the firm's Atlanta office. Angela is also a past recipient of the firm's Diversity Leadership Award.

Angela is a founding board member of The Women's Collective and a member of Leadership Atlanta. She is a former board member of the YWCA of Greater Atlanta and Hands On Atlanta and has also served on the Atlanta advisory board of the Posse Foundation.

After graduating, cum laude, from Harvard Law School, Angela served as a clerk for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

Representative Experience

- Won judgment of \$318 million as trial counsel on behalf of a high-tech company in a fraud and unfair and deceptive trade practices jury trial in the Middle District of North Carolina.
- Achieved a favorable settlement as counsel for a major telecommunications company in a multidistrict litigation patent infringement case brought by a nonpracticing entity asserting multimillion-dollar patent claims involving interactive call processing technology in the Central District of California.
- Achieved a favorable settlement for one of the world's largest computer manufacturers in a multimillion-dollar patent license royalty dispute case in Delaware Chancery Court.
- Served as a senior member of the national class counsel team that represented a global automobile manufacturer in multidistrict litigation proceedings in the Central District of California involving more than 200 class actions filed across the country related to unintended acceleration in vehicles; provided counsel on complex source code protection and production issues.
- Achieved a favorable settlement before trial for a fraction of asserted damages as trial counsel for a major computer manufacturer in a fraud and trade secret case involving product searching website software in the District of New Jersey.
- Achieved a favorable settlement before trial as litigation counsel for a cable set-top box manufacturer and four telecommunication companies in a patent infringement case involving DVR technology in the Eastern District of Texas.
- Defended a major mattress manufacturer in a patent litigation case involving foam mattresses in the Western District of Virginia.
- Achieved favorable settlements in multiple cases for a cable company in several patent infringement cases in the District of Delaware.

**Saloni Joshi**

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Related Services

Investment Funds
Private Equity
Family Office

Education

York College of Law
(L.P.C., 1996)

University of Warwick
(LL.B., 1995)

Admitted to Practice

Solicitor of the Senior Courts
of England and Wales

Saloni Joshi

Partner

Saloni Joshi is a partner in the Investment Funds Group. She also leads the Secondaries Transactions and Solutions teams. She has over 25 years' experience advising fund sponsors, asset managers, pension and investors private investment funds, secondaries, and private-equity-related transactions. Her clients include corporate and private investment funds and the representation of investors on all types of secondary transactions, including GP-led liquidity solutions, single-asset and multi-asset continuation vehicles, secondary direct transactions, and co-investments.

Saloni provides counsel to many leading U.S. and European institutional asset managers and investors in private equity funds, including local government bodies, pension plans, family offices, and high-net-worth individuals.

Saloni trained and qualified at a London Magic Circle law firm, practiced in London and Singapore, and has also practiced at two leading international U.S. law firms. She founded and operated her own private equity law firm for over 10 years and advised on a full spectrum of international private equity transactions.

Saloni earned her LL.B. in European law with German from the University of Warwick. She regularly speaks at conferences and narrated a series of podcasts on the topic of general partner-led deals, structured solutions, and co-investment transactions.

Representative Experience

- Represented a global asset management group with approximately €60 billion under management in over 100 private equity primary and secondary transactions.
- Represented a U.S. fund of funds, one of the world's largest investment managers with approximately \$69 billion under management, on all its European investment transactions.
- Represented an institutional UK private asset manager during the establishment of an \$800 million secondaries fund.
- Represented a U.S. international investor in the sale of its \$400 million portfolio of fund and direct interests.
- Represented an independent French private asset manager with approximately €10 billion under management in over 25 primary, secondary, and direct co-investment transactions.
- Represented a private nonprofit U.S. asset manager with \$26 billion under management during its European private equity transactions.
- Represented a Swiss multistrategy asset manager with €4 billion under management on its U.S. and European private equity investments.
- Represented a Swiss family investment office on European primary, secondary, and co-investment transactions.
- Represented a German pension fund with €2.1 billion under management on European and U.S. primary and co-investment transactions.
- Represented a UK-listed global alternative asset manager with approximately €37 billion under management in its European primary and secondary transactions.

**Olivia M. Kim**

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Related Services

Intellectual Property
Intellectual Property
Litigation
Patent Litigation

Education

University of Southern
California (J.D., 2003)

University of California,
Los Angeles (B.S., 1998)

Admitted to Practice

California

Olivia M. Kim

Partner

Olivia Kim is an accomplished trial lawyer concentrating in complex patent litigation with significant experience in examining and cross-examining critical lay and expert witnesses. She leads teams through all stages of litigation, including claim construction briefing and hearings, inventor and expert depositions and expert reports, the drafting and negotiation of settlement agreements, and substantive and discovery motion practice. Her trial experience involves various technologies from pharmaceuticals to computer hardware and software, including AI and machine learning, biotechnology, clinical testing, medical devices, biometric sensors, computer processor architecture, graphical user interfaces, internet payment systems, mobile phone systems, network security, and plasma display panels.

Olivia has received recognition for her excellence in legal practice, including the Daily Journal: Top Intellectual Property Attorneys in California (2017), by the *IAM Patent 1000* as a leading patent litigator in 2025, and by *Managing IP* as an IP Star in 2017–2018 and 2025.

Before starting her legal career, Olivia performed research in immunology and physiology laboratories at UCLA and co-authored papers on immune responses in diabetic mice and methods for membrane protein purification.

Representative Experience

- Represented two finance and media companies while obtaining summary judgment of noninfringement, which was affirmed on appeal.
- Defended a medical device company and obtained denial of the plaintiff's motion for preliminary injunction, and later permanent injunction, on patents relating to medical devices.
- Represented a pharmaceutical company in a jury trial on damages. The case settled favorably following closing statements.
- Defended a computer software company in a de facto bet-the-company case relating to protection of data in databases. The case settled favorably during trial.
- Represented a software company in a case relating to software for creating and managing websites. Obtained a partial summary judgment and the case favorably settled a few weeks before trial.
- Defended an investment bank against allegations of infringement of seven patents relating to deposit-sweep services. Resulted in favorable settlements for the clients on the eve of trial.
- Represented a consumer electronics company in a case involving 19 patents relating to plasma display panel technology. Resulted in a favorable settlement for the client.
- Represented an Ivy League university in a jury trial that resulted in a verdict for the university and a damages award of \$184 million. The university also prevailed at a bench trial relating to inequitable conduct and other non-jury issues.

**Katrina M. Llanes**

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Related Services

Corporate & Finance
Finance
Structured & Warehouse
Finance
Auto Finance
Equipment Leasing
MSR Finance &
Securitization

Education

American University
(J.D., 2007)

University of Miami
(B.A., 2003)

Admitted to Practice

New Jersey
New York

Katrina M. Llanes

Partner

Katrina Llanes, chair of the firm's Structured & Warehouse Finance Team, represents lenders, underwriters, investors, borrowers, sponsors, and issuers in a variety of corporate finance transactions, including structuring and negotiating warehouse lines, securitization transactions, asset-based finance, structured and secured lending, acquisition finance, and conduit financing arrangements across a broad range of assets. She has experience with agency and private-label mortgage servicing rights (MSRs), excess servicing spread, servicing advance receivables, residential and commercial mortgage loans, and participation interests. Katrina is nationally recognized in *Chambers USA* in Capital Markets: Securitization: MSR (USA-Nationwide).

Katrina is an active leader in the firm, serving as the national co-chair of the firm's Women's Initiative. Katrina has an active pro bono practice, representing women and children seeking immigration relief under the Violence Against Women Act and U-visa petitions. She has been honored by the New York Legal Aid Society with its Pro Bono Publico Award for outstanding service to the organization and its clients.

Representative Experience

- Represented one of the country's largest retail mortgage lenders and nonbank retail originators in a \$500 million MSR financing of Freddie Mac MSRs and a \$500 million MSR financing of Fannie Mae MSRs.
- Represented a mortgage servicer in the establishment of a master trust structure for the financing of Ginnie Mae MSRs and advances, which involved the issuance of \$3 billion of variable funding notes backed by ESS and Ginnie Mae MSRs, P&I advances, and servicing advances.
- Represented a lender in the establishment of MSR financing platform and initial \$200 million financing of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac MSRs.
- Represented one of the country's largest retail mortgage lenders and nonbank retail originators in a \$130 million servicer advance facility.
- Representing financial institutions and borrowers in warehouse financings of residential mortgage loans and early buy-out facilities.
- Represented a mortgage servicer in the financing of excess servicing spread in the acquisition of \$600 million of MSRs.
- Represented a mortgage servicer in structuring an MSR clearing platform that provides for investment in MSRs exceeding \$4 billion to date.
- Representing placement agents, institutional investors, issuers, and sponsors in private placement offerings of term and revolving asset-backed securities collateralized by servicer advance receivables.
- Representing sponsors, placement agents, and investors in private placement issuances of asset-backed notes collateralized by mortgage servicing rights and excess servicing spread.
- Representing servicers of mortgage loans in all facets of their business, including acquisitions and sales of servicing rights and loans, and financing servicing advance receivables and servicing rights through structured facilities and traditional credit facilities.
- Represented a New York City real estate owner and developer in the acquisition of mortgage loans and a \$50 million DIP facility.



Aldys A. London

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Related Services

Financial Services &
Products

Consumer Financial
Services

Education

American University
(J.D., 1996)

Georgetown University
(B.S., 1992)

Admitted to Practice

California
District of Columbia
Florida (inactive)

Aldys A. London

Partner

Aldys London advises clients on state and federal regulatory compliance issues for mortgage companies, consumer finance companies, secondary market investors, real estate companies, home builders, insurance companies, banks, and other financial institutions and settlement service providers.

Aldys's counsel includes state licensing for mortgage lenders, brokers, servicers, debt collectors, and loan officers, and federal registration requirements imposed by the SAFE Act. She is well-versed in state laws and regulations concerning fees, disclosures, loan documentation, interest rates, privacy, advertising, data breaches, and telemarketing.

Aldys assists a variety of consumer financial services companies in obtaining regulatory approvals for complex acquisitions, mergers, and asset transfer transactions. She performs due diligence reviews for proposed acquisitions and IPOs, reviews and prepares policies and procedures, conducts regulatory compliance audits of financial institutions, and assists with structuring and developing compliance and training programs. Aldys also assists clients with responses to regulatory audits and investigations by state and federal regulators.

Aldys participated in the Industry Development Working Group of the Conference of State Bank Supervisors (CSBS) for the testing and implementation of the Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System and Registry (NMLS) and the Foreign Licensing Working Group, a working group of regulators and industry collaborating to find possible solutions to challenges faced by foreign company license applicants and their control persons.

Representative Experience

- Advised and assisted clients on federal laws governing real estate settlement procedures and consumer protection, including the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA), Truth in Lending Act (TILA), the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), Gramm–Leach–Bliley Act (GLBA), and Telemarketing Sales Rule.
- Advised and assisted clients on fair lending laws, including the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA), Fair Housing Act, and Equal Credit Opportunity Act (ECOA).
- Obtained approvals from state and federal agencies and government-sponsored enterprises, including the Federal Housing Administration, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, Ginnie Mae, and Rural Housing Service.
- Advised and assisted clients in obtaining residential and commercial mortgage lender, broker, and servicer licenses and approvals, and change of control approvals for the purchase and sale of mortgage entities.
- Advised startups and established companies on regulatory compliance issues involved in building and maintaining online platforms for mortgage-related activities.
- Advised state and federal depository institutions on applicable state and federal regulatory requirements.
- Prepared multistate surveys addressing regulatory compliance issues for mortgage companies and other financial-services-related entities.

**Sarah Ma**

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Related Services**Tax**

Federal & International Tax
Real Estate
REITs & Funds
Private Equity
Global Services
Corporate & Finance
Corporate Debt Finance
Corporate & Business
Transactions
Structured & Warehouse
Finance
Joint Ventures & Investments
Private Funds
Opportunity Zones
Real Estate Funds
Tax Credit Transactions
Transactional Tax Insurance
Korea

Education

Georgetown University
(J.D., LL.M., 2012)

Georgetown University
(B.A., 2002)

Admitted to Practice

District of Columbia
New York

Sarah Ma

Partner

Sarah Ma is a partner in Alston & Bird's Federal & International Tax Group and co-leader of the firm's REITs and Real Estate tax practice. Sarah concentrates on tax planning and advises on U.S. federal tax issues relating to real estate and structured finance transactions, including implications involving REIT formation and compliance, affordable housing tax credit deals and syndications, and asset-backed securitization structures. She also counsels real estate developer and investor clients on tax issues involving real estate acquisitions and joint ventures, opportunity zones, and federal housing tax credits.

Sarah has significant experience with tax issues resulting from cancellation of debt income, an issue that frequently arises in bankruptcies, workouts, and restructurings, particularly those that involve real estate borrowers. She also represents clients before the IRS in various controversy matters and obtaining private letter ruling requests, including 9100 relief requests, specific issues involving REIT qualifications, and penalty relief requests.

Representative Experience

- Advising on REIT tax and compliance issues, including the formation and operation of REITs and tax structures involving REITs.
- Advising on U.S. federal tax consequences for real estate joint venture and acquisition deals.
- Advising on tax structuring involving middle-market M&A deals and SPAC transactions.
- Advised and helped structure the formation of a joint venture and its initial \$250 million investment in student housing assets in the United States.
- Advised and helped structure the sale of interests in a \$650 million real estate property to a foreign pension fund, including forming a private REIT.
- Structured a series of ground lease transactions on behalf of a large publicly traded REIT.
- Maintained and regularly reviewed intercompany transfer pricing arrangements for a large private equity client.

**Bhanu Mathur**

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Related Services

Corporate & Business
Transactions
Capital Markets & Securities
Mergers & Acquisitions
Hospitality
Industrials & Manufacturing

Education

The George Washington
University (J.D., 2013)

Boston University (B.A., 2010)

Admitted to Practice

Colorado
District of Columbia

Bhanu Mathur

Partner

Bhanu Mathur is a partner in Alston & Bird's Corporate & Business Transactions Group. She focuses her practice on the representation of public companies across industries including hospitality, payments, automotive, retail, and real estate investment trusts (REITs) in mergers and acquisitions, SEC reporting and compliance, corporate governance, and capital-raising transactions.

Representative Experience

- Counsel to a leading global timeshare company in its \$3 billion acquisition of a luxury timeshare operator and its \$1.5 billion acquisition of a U.S.-focused timeshare and vacation experience company.
- Counsel to the worldwide leader in automotive safety in the spinoff of its electronics business into a new public company traded in two countries.
- Counsel to a payments technology company in its public offerings totaling more than \$4 billion and €800 million of senior notes and a \$2 billion private offering of convertible senior notes.
- Counsel to a global timeshare company in multiple private offerings of senior secured notes with an aggregate value of more than \$2.2 billion.
- Counsel to a public commercial REIT in its acquisition of another public REIT for approximately \$290 million.
- Counsel to a public restaurant chain in its sale to a private equity group for approximately \$375 million.
- Counsel to a publicly traded industry-leading mortgage REIT in its acquisition of a publicly traded specialty finance REIT that focuses primarily on investments in residential mortgage-backed securities.
- Counsel to an automotive technology company in its concurrent registered public offerings of \$420 million common stock and \$180 million convertible notes.
- Counsel to a public software collaboration service company in the acquisition of an online team collaboration and project management solution for businesses.
- Counsel to a global airline in its investment in a regional U.S. private and public carrier.
- Seconded to a global hospitality company and advised on general corporate and operational matters as well as the company's spinoffs of two of its business segments.
- Counsel to public issuers in a variety of industries on the preparation of Forms 10-K, 10-Q, and 8-K, proxy statements, beneficial ownership reports, and complex SEC disclosure matters.
- Advising public companies on corporate governance practices and ESG matters.
- Advising clients on novel securities matters and interpretation of and compliance with regulatory and governance requirements.
- Counsel to companies on engaging with stockholders and responding to stockholder proposals.
- Advising investment managers, institutional investors, and other investors on beneficial ownership reporting requirements.
- Advising nonprofit corporations on regulatory and corporate governance issues.
- Assisting clients with multinational corporate reorganizations.

**Yuri Mikulka**

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Related Services

Intellectual Property
Intellectual Property Litigation
Trademark & Copyright
ITC Section 337
Trade Secrets
Patent Litigation
Artificial Intelligence (AI)
Korea

Education

Pepperdine University
(J.D., 1996)

University of California, Irvine
(B.A., 1992)

Admitted to Practice

California

Yuri Mikulka

Partner

Yuri Mikulka co-leads the firm's Consumer Technology Patent Litigation Team and serves on the AI Steering Committee. With over 25 years of experience, she serves as lead counsel for innovative companies, from Fortune 100 firms to emerging AI startups. Yuri represents clients in litigation involving patents, trade secrets, copyrights, and trademarks. She also collaborates closely with clients and teams within the firm to seamlessly meet her clients' litigation, regulatory, and other legal needs.

Yuri's expertise is widely recognized. The *Daily Journal* named her one of California's top IP lawyers, highlighting her defense of a global company in a multibillion-dollar patent and trade secret case as one of their "Top Defense Verdicts." The *LA Business Journal* honored her as one of the 500 most influential leaders in LA for six years. The *Los Angeles Times* hailed her as a "legal visionary." IAM Strategy 300 recognizes Yuri as "The World's Leading IP Strategists."

Yuri is a prominent figure in the industry. She has served as the president of the Federal Bar Association, LA Chapter, and as the Ninth Circuit representative of ABA's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary, which evaluates federal judicial nominees. She is the advisor for ABA's AI For Litigators Initiative, a board member of CHIPLs, LA Chapter, and co-founder of Carry As You Climb, a leadership group for executives and in-house counsel.

Representative Experience

- First-chaired and secured a jury verdict of willful patent infringement and copyright infringement against a client's competitor selling an infringing water scooter and infringing its patents and copyright. *Hydrodynamic Industrial Co. v. Green Max Distributors Inc.*, No. 2:12-cv-05058 (C.D. Cal.).
- Led and prevailed in the defense of a trade secret misappropriation action and a parallel patent infringement action on behalf of a global hearing aid manufacturer regarding Bluetooth and cloud-based telehealth hearing-aid fitting technology. Secured a motion for summary judgment that addressed the perils of seeking trade secret protection while simultaneously seeking patent and copyright protection and effective NDA language. *Manchester v. Sivantos GMBH*, No. 2:17-cv-05309 (C.D. Cal.).
- Secured a consent judgment, permanent injunction, and a settlement for medical technology company MicroVention Inc., now called Terumo Neuro, in a trade secret misappropriation and a patent infringement case asserted against a competitor and former employees related to patents and trade secrets related to catheter and coil systems used to treat aneurysms. *MicroVention Inc. v. Balt Inc., et al.*, No. 8:20-cv-02400; No. 8:19-cv-01335 (C.D. Cal.).
- Defended Corning Inc. in a series of patent infringement cases involving optical communications solutions for 5G networks and data centers involving distributed antenna systems (DAS). Prevailed on a motion to dismiss and a motion for summary judgment on noninfringement on all three patents in *Dali Wireless, Inc. v. Corning Optical Communications LLC*, No. 3:20-cv-06469 (N.D. Cal.). The case was highlighted in the November 29, 2022 *Docket Navigator* report and in the *Daily Journal* as one of the "Top Defense Verdicts" in California. See also *Dali Networks Inc., et al. v. Corning Incorporated, et al.*, No. 6:20-cv-01108 (WDTX); *Dali Wireless Inc. v. Corning Optical Communications LLC*, No. 3:22-cv-00623 (WDNC).



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Related Services

Class Action & Multidistrict
Litigation
Business Litigation
Securities Litigation
M&A Litigation

Education

Stanford University (J.D., 2014)

Princeton University (B.A., 2010)

Admitted to Practice

Georgia

Courtney Quirós

Partner

Courtney Quirós focuses primarily on securities fraud class actions, shareholder derivative suits, internal corporate investigations, and other complex commercial litigation. Courtney has significant experience in stranger-originated life insurance (STOLI) transactions. She has defended health care, manufacturing, insurance, transportation, and financial services clients in federal courts throughout the country.

While in law school, Courtney served as the co-president of Women of Stanford Law and as a member of the Religious Liberty Clinic. At Stanford, Courtney earned the Gerald Gunther Prize for Constitutional Law. Courtney completed her undergraduate studies at Princeton University, earning high honors in religion with a concentration in African American studies.

Representative Experience

- Representing Celsius Holdings along with certain of its officers as lead counsel in a shareholder securities class action in Florida federal court.
- Representing a Fortune 400 manufacturing company in putative securities class actions in federal court in Delaware and Georgia, individual securities actions in state court in Georgia, and related shareholder derivative actions pending in federal and state courts in Georgia.
- Representing a committee of the board of directors of a Fortune 400 company in the internal investigation of shareholder derivative demands.
- Lead counsel for an affiliate of one of Canada's largest institutional investment managers in an action in California federal court related to a disputed life insurance policy.
- Represented Astec Industries along with certain of its former officers in a shareholder securities class action pending in Tennessee federal court.
- Represented HF Foods Group along with certain of its present and former directors and officers in a shareholder securities class action and related derivative actions pending in California federal court.
- Represented The Wendy's Company and certain of its officers and directors in a consolidated shareholder derivative action arising out of a criminal cyberattack.
- Represented the 3D Systems board of directors in derivative actions in South Carolina federal and state courts, Delaware federal court, and California state court.
- Represented 3D Systems and several former officers as lead counsel in a securities class action in South Carolina federal court.
- Represented a life insurance policy investor claiming \$45 million in policy proceeds in a series of federal court actions.
- Represented a publicly traded pharmaceutical company in an investigation of shareholder derivative claims.
- Represented Coca-Cola Enterprises and its board of directors in a series of class actions in Delaware Chancery Court related to the formation of Coca-Cola European Partners. The deal closed as scheduled.

**Heather Ripley**

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Related Services

Tax
Federal & International Tax
Corporate & Business
Transactions
Tax Controversy
Wealth Planning
Financial Services
Germany
Family Office
REITs
Private Equity
Real Estate Funds
Investment Funds
Transactional Tax Insurance

Education

Harvard University (J.D., 2009)

University of Georgia
(M.Acc., 2006)

University of Georgia
(B.B.A., 2006)

Admitted to Practice

New York

Heather Ripley

Partner

Heather Ripley is a partner in Alston & Bird's Federal & International Tax Group and a member of the firm's REITs and Real Estate Funds tax team. She counsels U.S. and foreign business entities and high-net-worth individuals on tax-efficient structuring for their U.S. and cross-border investments and activities, understanding their U.S. tax and compliance obligations and risks, and rectifying noncompliance issues. She has advised clients on income tax treaty application, FATCA, FIRPTA, and other tax issues for inbound investments into the United States, the anti-deferral regimes for outbound investments (CFC, PFIC), and tax aspects of M&A transactions. Heather also advises clients on various tax information reporting regimes.

Heather also has experience in federal tax controversy work and has navigated numerous clients through the IRS's voluntary disclosure procedures, letter rulings, and competent authority requests. Heather has also counseled various charitable and nonprofit organizations on incorporation, tax exemption applications and restrictions, and other tax issues, as well as providing volunteer income tax assistance for low-income individuals.

Heather was recognized by *The Best Lawyers in America*® in Tax Law and as a *New York Law Journal* Rising Star. She's a frequent speaker at tax conferences and writes regularly about international tax developments.

Representative Experience

- U.S. tax counsel to one of the largest foreign multinational financial services groups.
- Representing a number of significant European multinational companies in their U.S. structures, restructurings, and operations in the United States.
- Advising several European funds and their advisors on optimal tax structures, subscription agreements, and tax certifications.



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Related Services

Intellectual Property
Trademark & Copyright
Intellectual Property Litigation
Trademark, Copyright & False
Advertising Litigation
Trademark Prosecution &
Portfolio Management
Hospitality

Education

Vanderbilt University (J.D., 2008)

Emory University (B.B.A., 2003)

Admitted to Practice

Georgia

Nadya Sand

Partner

Nadya Munasifi Sand is a partner in the Atlanta office and leader of the Trademark & Copyright Team. Nadya concentrates her practice on domestic and international trademark and copyright portfolio management, prosecution, and counseling, as well as advertising clearance. She also has experience handling enforcement matters in federal and state court litigation, contested matters before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (TTAB) and the National Advertising Division of the Better Business Bureau, and domain name arbitrations brought under ICANN's Uniform Domain-Name Dispute-Resolution Policy (UDRP).

Nadya earned her J.D. from Vanderbilt University Law School, where she was a merit scholar and a member of *The Journal of Entertainment & Technology Law*. Before attending law school, Nadya served as an account executive for two years at the marketing agencies Emergence and Pure Red. She earned a bachelor of business administration, highest distinction, from Emory University's Goizueta Business School, where she concentrated in marketing, organization, and management and was named the Ron Frank Marketing Scholar.

Representative Experience

- Counsel for several corporations with significant U.S. and international trademark and copyright portfolios, including a major hotel company, a well-known chain of restaurants, a preeminent organization that sanctions and governs auto racing sports events, and a national sporting goods retailer.
- Advising several clients on advertising campaigns and television commercials.
- Developed comprehensive international trademark filing strategies for several clients, including a leading provider of air conditioners and water heaters and a well-known chain of restaurants.
- Represented clients in trademark, copyright, or advertising matters in nearly every country around the world.
- Secured a permanent injunction and damages for the largest rental car company in Latin America in a trademark infringement lawsuit in federal court against a competitor.
- Appealed the denial of a defendant website forum's summary judgment motion before the Georgia Court of Appeals. The appeal presented issues of first impression in Georgia under the federal Communications Decency Act. The Georgia Court of Appeals granted the appeal.
- Represented a motorsports entertainment company in a trademark opposition before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board against an application to register a similar trademark on fuel additives and automotive products.
- Recorded a manufacturer, its trademarks, and its goods with Egypt's General Organization for Export and Import Control. The manufacturer's goods had been blocked by a new decree that prevented shipment of products to Egypt for unrecorded companies.
- Represented the plaintiff in a trademark infringement and tortious interference lawsuit in federal court against a competitor in the oilfield services industry.
- Defended a major international pharmaceutical company against claims of false advertising asserted by its largest competitor. The case settled favorably for our client after a successful motion for protective order that significantly limited the scope of the plaintiff's discovery efforts.

**Angela M. Spivey**

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Related Services

Litigation
Class Action & Multidistrict
Litigation
Mass Toxic & Toxic Torts
Products Liability
FDA: Drug & Device
FDA: Compliance & Enforcement
Food & Beverage
Perfluoroalkyl & Polyfluoroalkyl
Substances (PFAS)

Education

University of Mississippi
(J.D., 1996)

University of Alabama
(B.A., 1993)

Admitted to Practice

Georgia
Mississippi

Angela M. Spivey

Partner

Angela Spivey co-leads Alston & Bird's food & beverage industry team. She also serves as co-chair of the Litigation & Trial Practice Group.

Angela provides defense and counsel for food manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, retailers, and packaging entities in a host of FDA, USDA, and CBP regulatory compliance issues and litigation. She has extensive experience defending consumer class action labeling cases, implementing product recalls, and defending widespread international outbreaks and resulting civil litigation. Angela also defends corporations and individuals in FDA-OCI criminal investigations. In addition to consulting with food industry clients, Angela has first-chair trial experience before state and federal courts across the United States.

Angela is ranked by *Chambers USA* in Band 1 as a leader in the category of Food & Beverages: Regulatory & Litigation and has been named a "Litigation Trailblazer" by *The National Law Journal*. Angela was named to the 2021 BTI "Client Service All-Stars" list and is also ranked in *The Best Lawyers in America*®. She is well known for her thought leadership in the industry as a co-author of *Food Safety Law*, the nation's leading treatise, and the firm's monthly *Food & Beverage Digest*, and is a frequent speaker across the country at various industry group conferences discussing top-of-mind issues in the food industry.

Representative Experience

- National labeling counsel for one of North America's largest food companies, defending the company in all its consumer class action labeling cases, slack-fill cases, and Proposition 65 cases.
- Supervised the nationwide defense of leading food manufacturers in adulterated food personal injury claims arising from highly publicized food recalls, including defending more than 700 cases in 24 states, defeating 29 class actions, and defending 20,000 individual claims related to a single recall.
- Defending retailers and food manufacturers in consumer class action labeling cases throughout the United States, with experience defeating class certification and obtaining summary dismissal with prejudice.
- Counsel to national food manufacturers, transporters, distributors, and retailers regarding compliance with FDA, USDA, and CBP regulations, including labeling and claims, food safety, preventive controls, FSMA compliance, registration issues, and import issues.
- Representing national supermarkets, food manufacturers, distributors, and restaurant chains in all aspects of recalls, including working with regulators, advising on public relations matters, and resolving threatened enforcement action and claims.
- Advising food manufacturers and retailers on product claim substantiation and risk mitigation.
- Defending food manufacturers, retailers, restaurant chains, and transporters against claims of criminal violations of FDA and USDA regulations before the Department of Justice, Main Justice, and assistant U.S. attorneys.
- Defending clients in FDA, USDA, and CBP enforcement actions, including warning letters, FDA Form 483s, establishment inspection reports, registration suspension threats, and import holds and detentions.



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Related Services

Corporate & Finance
Corporate & Business
Transactions
Mergers & Acquisitions
Private Equity
Capital Markets & Securities
Technology & Business
Services Mergers &
Acquisitions
Aerospace & Defense
Mergers & Acquisitions
France

Education

Harvard University
(J.D., 2012)

Stanford University
(B.A., 2007)

Admitted to Practice

Georgia
New York

Elaine C. Tapp

Partner

Elaine Tapp represents public and private companies and financial sponsors in a broad range of complex corporate and transactional matters, including acquisitions, divestitures, carveouts, and joint ventures, corporate financings, corporate governance, and other general corporate matters.

Elaine was previously an associate in the New York offices of two leading international law firms, a research specialist at the SEC's Division of Investment Management, and a financial analyst at a leading private equity and venture capital firm in Silicon Valley and Hong Kong.

Elaine has been recognized for her M&A expertise in *The Best Lawyers in America*®. She serves on the board of directors of the Atlanta Classical Academy.

She received her J.D. from Harvard Law School and her B.A. in international relations from Stanford University, where she graduated with honors and distinction and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa.

Representative Experience

- LHC Group Inc. in its \$2.4 billion merger with Almost Family, and in its subsequent \$5.4 billion sale to UnitedHealth Group.
- Weyerhaeuser in its \$2.65 billion acquisition of Longview Timber Holdings.
- American Proteins in the \$850 million sale of its poultry rendering and blending assets to Tyson Foods.
- Memorial Health University Medical Center in its \$700 million sale to HCA.
- Goldman Sachs in its sale of a company operating hydroelectric plants in Turkey.
- The Carlyle Group, Madison Dearborn Partners, Ridgemont Equity Partners, RedBird Capital Partners, Tudor, and other prominent private equity firms and their portfolio companies in a wide variety of transactions and matters.
- Tropical Smoothie Café in its sale to Levine Leichtman Capital Partners.
- N3 LLC in its sale to Accenture.
- Zingle in its sale to Medallia.
- A global solutions provider in the automotive industry in a variety of transactions, including the sale of its joint venture interest in a company providing fleet management solutions and the sale of an international provider of dealer management systems.
- A leading manufacturer of paper and building products in the carveout and sale of its nonwovens business.
- Lumine Group in its acquisition of TOMIA, a provider of global connectivity monetization solutions in intercarrier business processes.
- Mastodon Design LLC in its sale to CACI International Inc.
- P2P Staffing Corporation in the sale of its MedPartners HIM division to AMN Healthcare Services for over \$200 million.
- Venture capital firms in investments into portfolio companies and other matters.
- Startup companies in various industries as outside general counsel, including with formation, financing, contractual, and governance matters.

**Chunlian “Lian” Yang**

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Related Services

International Trade & Regulatory
Litigation

ITC Section 337

Export Controls

Office of Foreign Assets
Control (OFAC) Embargoes and
Sanctions

Customs

Trade Remedies: Antidumping,
Countervailing Duty & Other
Trade Proceedings

Committee on Foreign
Investment in the United States
(CFIUS)

Global Services

Industrials & Manufacturing

China

Brazil

Education

William & Mary (J.D., 2009)

Yunnan University (B.A., 2001)

Admitted to Practice

District of Columbia

Maryland

Chunlian “Lian” Yang

Partner

Lian Yang is a partner with the International Trade & Regulatory Group where she focuses primarily on trade remedies and customs matters. Lian also advises clients on export controls, financial sanctions, trade policies, and CFIUS matters. She provides effective and pragmatic counseling on both trade compliance and high-stakes government enforcement actions to manufacturers, importers and exporters in a wide variety of industries including steel, aluminum, green energy, automotive, chemicals, industrial goods, consumer electronics, information technology, textile, and food and drug.

Her work in international trade has been recognized by *Chambers Global* and *Chambers USA*.

Representative Experience

- Represented domestic and foreign companies in antidumping and countervailing duty proceedings before the U.S. Department of Commerce and International Trade Commission, including investigations, administrative reviews, sunset reviews, changed circumstances reviews, and scope inquiries, and in litigation before the U.S. Court of International Trade and the Federal Circuit.
- Counseled clients in trade remedy proceedings such as Section 232 actions on aluminum and steel imports, Section 301 actions on Chinese products, and Section 201 (safeguard) actions.
- Counseled clients in customs compliance matters and advocated for clients in proceedings before U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) involving forced labor compliance and enforcement, tariff classification, valuation, country of origin, ruling request, protest, voluntary disclosure, penalty, and liquidated damages matters; focused assessment audits; and free trade agreements. Advised clients on import compliance program design and self-audit.
- Conducted international trade and anticorruption due diligence in mergers and acquisitions.
- Advised domestic and foreign companies on compliance with the Export Administration Regulations (EAR) and Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) sanctions.
- Represented exporters facing Department of Justice (DOJ) subpoenas and Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) enforcement settlement negotiations, and assisted clients with license applications.
- Assisted clients with CFIUS reviews and related due diligence matters in foreign investments and mergers and acquisitions.
- Represented both complainants and respondents in Section 337 investigations based on patent infringement and trade secrets.



Jennifer Aguilar

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Related Services

Financial Services
Bank Regulatory
Payments & Fintech
Consumer Financial Services

Education

American University (J.D., 2016)

University of California,
San Diego (B.A., 2013)

Admitted to Practice

District of Columbia
Virginia

Jennifer Aguilar Counsel

Jennifer Aguilar is counsel in Alston & Bird's Financial Services Group. She counsels financial services clients on regulatory and transactional matters, with a focus on payments laws and network rules.

Jennifer advises clients on matters relating to the Nacha Operating Rules and Guidelines, card network rules, the Electronic Funds Transfer Act (EFTA), Truth in Savings Act (TISA), Expedited Funds Availability Act (EFA Act), and Truth in Lending Act (TILA), and a variety of state laws.

Before joining Alston & Bird, Jennifer was an associate at a law firm in a leading consumer financial services group, where she advised clients on requirements relating to consumer protection and disclosures, deposit products, payment cards, credit cards, checks, and installment lending. She also served as counsel at the National Association of Federally-Insured Credit Unions (NAFCU), where she provided comprehensive compliance assistance on the federal consumer financial services regulations to the nation's credit unions.

Representative Experience

- Counseled clients on Nacha rules compliance, including drafting authorizations and origination agreements and advising on implementation of new rules.
- Advised on consumer compliance requirements for a crypto rewards credit card program.
- Drafted user terms for a business-to-business payments platform.
- Reviewed consumer deposit account agreements and disclosures for compliance with federal regulations.
- Drafted company policies for clients on consumer compliance topics such as EFTA, Nacha, UDAAP, fair lending, and marketing.
- Served as acting general counsel to a credit union, working directly with executives and business units on contract disputes and consumer compliance.

**Robin J. Boucard**

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Related Services

Financial Services
Corporate & Finance
Mutual Funds, BDCs, & Other
Registered Investment
Companies
Finance
Structured & Warehouse Finance
Consumer Financial Services

Education

Fordham University (J.D., 2005)

University of Maryland
(B.A., 2002)

Admitted to Practice

New York

Robin J. Boucard

Counsel

Robin Boucard is counsel in the Finance Group in the New York office. She represents purchasers, sellers, and servicers in connection with the purchase, sale, servicing, and financing of mortgage and other financial assets, including forward and reverse mortgage loans and government-insured mortgage loans.

Robin has experience representing issuers, underwriters, sellers, and servicers in public and private offerings of mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities transactions.

**Jennifer Cieluch**

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Related Services

Intellectual Property
Intellectual Property Litigation
Patent Litigation
Trade Secrets
ITC Section 337

Education

Duke University (J.D., 2015)

Rice University (B.S., 2009)

Admitted to Practice

New Jersey
New York
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Jennifer Cieluch

Counsel

With over a decade of trial experience in New York state courts, federal district courts, and the International Trade Commission (ITC), Jennifer Cieluch focuses her practice on patent and trade secret litigation. She has managed ITC investigations, handled expert witness examinations, and conducted depositions in recent litigation. Using her background in bioengineering, Jennifer represents a variety of companies through all stages of litigation including those related to technology, software, and pharmaceuticals. Jennifer also has extensive stand-up experience, including oral argument before the Federal Circuit.

Jennifer has been recognized in *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch®* for her appellate practice and patent litigation, and she has been recognized as a top performing ITC lawyer by *Patexia*. She is frequently invited to present on patent litigation topics at national and local conferences, including as a guest lecturer on the International Trade Commission at Duke University School of Law. Jennifer also focuses her pro bono practice to assist veterans, given her background growing up in a military family, and domestic violence victims in family court. Jennifer was a former law intern for the Hon. Richard Linn of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

Representative Experience

- Managed two ITC investigations that focused on standard essential patents involving ITU standard video coding technology, from discovery through trial to commission review briefs. At these trials, she handled the direct examination of expert witnesses on domestic industry and public interest issues, who were both cited extensively by the administrative law judges in winning decisions.
- Took the apex depositions of the CEO, CFO, and head of regulatory of a major pharmaceutical manufacturing company in a case involving allegations of fraudulent transfer that resulted from winning a seven-figure sanctions award.
- Represented a major technology company in multiple investigations in patent litigation involving video standards technology in the International Trade Commission and related inter partes review proceedings.
- Represented a transplant diagnostic company in preparing an inter partes review petition.
- Represented an Australian mining company in patent litigation involving core orientation mining technology before the International Trade Commission.
- Represented a major technology company in multiple patent litigation matters involving sonar technology in the International Trade Commission, Northern District of Oklahoma, Eastern District of Texas, and Federal Circuit.
- Represented a Korean technology company in patent litigation involving automatic brightness display technology in the Eastern District of Texas.
- Represented an international defense electronics company in patent litigation involving surveillance systems in the Court of Federal Claims.
- Represented a pharmaceutical company in patent litigation involving a cancer treatment in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.
- Represented a pharmaceutical company in Hatch-Waxman patent litigation involving an antidepressant in the District of Delaware.

**Regina Couto**

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Chicago, IL 60606
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Related Services

Employee Benefits & Executive
Compensation
Mergers & Acquisitions

Education

DePaul University (J.D., 2014)

Northern Illinois University
(B.S., 2010)

Admitted to Practice

District of Columbia
Illinois
New York

Regina Couto Counsel

Regina Couto focuses her practice on ERISA and employee benefits matters. Regina has experience advising both public and private companies on tax and securities law issues in mergers and acquisitions, financings, initial public offerings, and other corporate transactions. Regina has been recognized by *The Best Lawyers in America*® since 2021.

Representative Experience

- Counseling both private equity sponsors and portfolio company management in the negotiation and implementation of equity-based compensation arrangements for management teams.
- Counseling both buyers and sellers in compensation-related aspects of transactions, including pre-signing negotiations, executive and equity compensation (including Section 280G – the golden parachute rules), and post-closing employee integration matters.
- Assisting publicly held companies in their preparation of securities disclosure materials, including CD&A, compensation tables, and other proxy disclosures.
- Counseling boards of directors and compensation committees on executive compensation arrangements and human resources issues.
- Assisting with post-transaction compensation-related matters and benefits integration.

**Maya Lopez Grasse**

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Related Services

Environment, Land Use &
Natural Resources

Air Quality

Climate Change / Carbon
Management

Toxic Substances Control Act
(TSCA)

Environmental Compliance,
Permitting & Transactions

Environmental Enforcement
Defense

Proposition 65

Land Use

Chemical & Product Regulation

Coastal Land Use

Oil & Gas

Environmental, Social &
Governance (ESG)

Education

Loyola Law School (J.D., 2011)

Pomona College (B.A., 2001)

Admitted to Practice

California

Maya Lopez Grasse

Counsel

Maya Grasse counsels clients on compliance with a range of environmental regulations, particularly regional, state, and federal air quality regimes and land use controls, with a focus on the issues faced by oil and gas, mining, industrial, manufacturing, and recycling clients.

Maya advises clients in formal and informal proceedings before state and local agencies in land use and environmental permitting matters, enforcement actions, and agency rulemaking efforts, representing industrial, commercial, and energy clients as they work with oversight agencies including local air quality management districts, particularly the South Coast Air Quality Management District, and the California Air Resources Board. Her practice includes securing and negotiating development entitlements for industrial, commercial, residential, and energy projects and preparing and reviewing California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents. She advises clients on compliance with environmental regulations, including CEQA, the California and federal Clean Air Acts and Endangered Species Acts, and California's Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA), as well as local planning, zoning, and environmental regulations.

Maya assists clients with the selection of experts and consultants for regulatory and litigation matters and regularly monitors and provides analysis on policy trends and proposed, new, and existing environmental laws and agency regulations. She also represents clients in federal and state court litigation on claims brought under CEQA and other environmental and planning and zoning laws.

Representative Experience

- Advising refineries, oil and gas companies, mining and manufacturing companies, resorts, educational institutions, and other industrial and commercial operators in ongoing matters of project development, permitting, and air quality compliance and enforcement actions, including strategic resolution of notices of violations, penalty and settlement negotiations, and representation in administrative hearings for variance petitions and orders for abatement, with particular familiarity within Kern County, CA (including the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District) and South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) jurisdictions.
- Advising engine manufacturers, vehicle fleet owners, and commercial and industrial operators with CARB enforcement actions, investigations, and rule development.
- Advising a variety of industries, including financial institutions and food and beverage companies, on California's recent greenhouse gas emissions disclosure laws and impending rulemaking.
- Counseling consumer product manufacturers and distributors in product labeling that intersects with environmental law, including California's Prop 65 warning regulations and relevant import/export regulations.

**Alexis M. Higgs**

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Related Services

Corporate & Finance

Finance

Corporate Trust, Agency &
Asset Servicing

Education

Duke University
(J.D., LL.M., 2013)

Yale University (B.A., 2009)

Admitted to Practice

California

New York

North Carolina

Alexis M. Higgs

Counsel

Alexis Higgs is a member of Alston & Bird's Finance Group. She focuses on advising corporate trust clients on a wide variety of capital markets transactions, including structured finance and debt offerings. Before joining the firm, Alexis represented issuers and underwriters in commercial mortgage-backed securitizations at a major New York law firm.

Alexis represents major financial institutions as master servicer, trustee, paying agent, securities administrator, disbursement agent, escrow agent, and custodian on public and private CMBS, ABS, and RMBS transactions, including new securitizations, terminations, amendments, repurchase facilities, escrow arrangements, and custodial arrangements. Alexis is also named in *The Best Lawyers in America*® "Ones to Watch" for Banking and Finance Law.

Alexis earned her J.D. and an LL.M. in international and comparative law in 2013 from the Duke University School of Law. She earned a bachelor of arts in both history and international studies in 2009 from Yale University where she was also a four-year letter winning member of the Division I Women's Swimming and Diving Team.

Representative Experience

- Representing major financial institutions as the trustee, securities administrator, and custodian in closing numerous public and private commercial mortgage-backed and residential mortgage-backed securitizations.
- Representing major financial institutions in closing numerous asset-backed transactions involving a variety of asset types, including credit card receivables, auto loans, and consumer loans.
- Representing major financial institutions as the master servicer in closing numerous public and private residential mortgage-backed securitizations.
- Representing major financial institutions as the custodian on mortgage-loan warehousing and other custodial arrangements.
- Representing major financial institutions in the administration and the natural or early termination of transactions.
- Represented a major financial institution as the indenture trustee on agency-sponsored synthetic credit risk transfer transactions.
- Represented a major financial institution on the implementation of a variety of data privacy regulations in a transaction.
- Represented a major financial institution as trustee on a program involving the issuance of municipal certificates.

**Jessica N. Garcia Keenum**

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Related Services

Corporate & Finance
Financial Services
Payments & Fintech
Bank Regulatory
Blockchain & Digital Assets

Education

University of Virginia (J.D., 2012)

The University of Alabama
(B.A., 2009)

Admitted to Practice

Georgia
New York

Jessica N. Garcia Keenum

Counsel

Jessica Garcia Keenum is counsel with Alston & Bird's Financial Services Group and a member of the Payments & Fintech Group. She advises cryptocurrency exchanges and platforms, social media platforms, financial institutions, merchants, money services businesses, fintech companies and other payments systems clients on a wide range of transactional and regulatory matters, including the development of new financial products and services.

Jessica regularly provides guidance on regulatory issues and compliance with federal and state laws applicable to money transmission, mobile payments, person-to-person payments, cryptocurrencies, prepaid access, card surcharging, and electronic payments. She routinely advises on card network and NACHA rules compliance.

As part of Jessica's transactional practice, she counsels clients in matters related to the issuance, acceptance, and processing of payments-related products and services as well as the development of mobile wallets and applications.

Before joining Alston & Bird, Jessica was an associate in the New York office of a leading international law firm, where she spent several months in-house at a large financial institution.

Jessica is recognized in the 2023 edition of *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch®* in Financial Services Regulation Law. She has authored numerous articles for Westlaw's *Payment Systems and Electronic Fund Transfers Guide*. Jessica received her J.D. from the University of Virginia and her B.A., summa cum laude, from the University of Alabama.

Representative Experience

- Counseling clients in the development of innovative products, including those implementing blockchain technology.
- Advising clients on federal and state regulations applicable to money transmission and licensing.
- Representing fintech and cryptocurrency clients in obtaining and maintaining money transmitter licenses.
- Advising businesses engaged in cryptocurrency activities of their obligations under federal and state law, including new cryptocurrency-specific regimes.
- Representing multiple U.S. financial institutions in their negotiations of credit and debit issuing and processing agreements.
- Representing operators of electronic funds transfer networks in drafting and revising the rules governing their networks.
- Advising financial technology companies on the development of new mobile wallet products.
- Representing clients in negotiating services agreements with providers of electronic payment services.
- Representing clients in negotiating gift card agreements with gift card distribution companies.
- Representing merchants in negotiating credit card acceptance agreements and co-brand program agreements.

**Solmaz Kraus**

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Related Services

Finance
Corporate & Finance
Finance & Financial Services
Real Estate
Capital Markets & Securities
Structured & Warehouse
Finance
Derivatives
Joint Ventures &
Investments
Enforcement, Workouts &
Foreclosures
Single-Family Rental (SFR)
Financing

Education

University of California, Los
Angeles (J.D., 2002)

University of California,
Irvine (B.A., 1999)

Admitted to Practice

California

Solmaz Kraus Counsel

Solmaz Kraus is counsel with the Structured & Warehouse Finance Team. She focuses her practice on global finance, working on structuring, negotiating, and documenting complex business transactions involving both debt and equity. She works with banks, special opportunities hedge funds, private equity funds, debt funds, and public and privately held companies. Solmaz also has experience on transactions involving the financing of single-family homes, representing lenders and borrowers.

Solmaz has experience as an investment associate at a private equity firm and spent 13 years in law working on business restructuring matters, including representation of debtors, trustees, and secured creditors in restructurings, bankruptcies, and foreclosures.

Solmaz has worked closely with the Children of War Foundation. She assisted in starting a program to connect refugee children in Ethiopia, Jordan, Sudan, and Yemen with children in a Los Angeles elementary school.

**Kristen C. Kuan**

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Related Services

Litigation
Business Litigation
Financial Services Litigation
White Collar, Government &
Internal Investigations
Contingent Risk Insurance

Education

The George Washington
University (J.D., 2015)

Vanderbilt University
(B.A., 2010)

Admitted to Practice

District of Columbia
New York

Kristen C. Kuan

Counsel

Kristen Kuan is counsel in Alston & Bird's New York office and a member of the Litigation & Trial Practice Group.

Kristen focuses her practice on complex commercial litigation, particularly cross-border disputes. She has experience in a variety of complex commercial matters, including litigation involving breach of contract, fraud, employment restrictive covenants, securities law, and structured finance actions in state and federal courts. Kristen utilizes her vast litigation experience in a wide array of industries in order to assist insurance clients seeking to underwrite contingent risk insurance. She has also had significant experience representing individuals and corporations in various government investigations brought by the DOJ, HUD OIG, CFPB, and FDA. Kristen maintains an active pro bono practice, representing clients in domestic violence, child custody, immigration, and habeas corpus disputes.

Kristen earned her J.D. from George Washington University, where she was an associate member of *The George Washington International Law Review* and a writing fellow for the Legal Research and Writing Program. During law school, she was a summer honors law intern in the Enforcement Division of the Securities and Exchange Commission. She earned her B.A. in public policy and East Asian studies, graduating magna cum laude from Vanderbilt University.

Kristen was recognized as a "New York Rising Star" in Business Litigation by *Super Lawyers*, from 2020-2023.

Representative Experience

- Counsel to insurance companies assisting with the underwriting of contingent/litigation risk products.
- Counsel to an individual in a breach of contract dispute with an artificial intelligence technology company.
- Counsel to a New York hotel group in an action to foreclose a \$68 million mortgage and a related action involving a partnership dispute.
- Advisor to a health insurance company in an Article 78 proceeding in New York State Supreme Court.
- Counsel to a life settlements company in a case involving claims for breach of contract and fraud with a variety of cross-border issues.
- Represented a population health services company in a breach of contract dispute and obtained a favorable multimillion-dollar settlement.
- Defended a private, global consulting firm against claims of "raiding" and conspiracy to "lift out" a practice group and various claims of breaches of and interference with an array of restrictive covenants. The case was favorably settled just before jury selection.
- Represented clients in the residential mortgage industry in investigations brought by the DOJ, HUD OIG, and CFPB.
- Counseled a mortgage servicing company in responding to a federal examination by the CFPB.

**Adriene Lynch**

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Related Services

Real Estate

Education

Loyola Law School
(J.D., 2008)

Georgetown University
(B.A., 2003)

Admitted to Practice

California

Adriene Lynch Counsel

Adriene Lynch focuses on advising clients in every aspect of real property transactions, including negotiating, structuring, and closing purchases and sales; commercial, retail, and industrial leases; and easements and other possessory interests. Adriene also counsels clients on commercial matters and pre-litigation strategy to ensure compliance with state and federal laws and alignment with clients' business plans. As an experienced litigator, she is well-positioned to identify risks and potential pitfalls with an eye toward avoiding unnecessary litigation.

Before joining the Real Estate Group, Adriene was a member of the Litigation & Trial Practice Group, handling disputes in California state and federal courts and arbitration proceedings. She litigated matters involving real estate and contract disputes, commercial and residential foreclosures, unfair debt collection issues (including the FDCPA, FCRA, and Rosenthal Act), consumer protection statutes, and economic espionage allegations. She advised clients on unlawful detainer and commercial leasing disputes, franchise matters involving the Petroleum Marketing Practices Act (PMPA), labor and employment disputes, and bankruptcy-related issues.

Adriene serves as co-chair of Alston & Bird's Los Angeles Women's Leadership Initiative. She also serves on the regional board of Read to a Child, provides pro bono support regularly for Homeboy Industries, and is actively involved in the firm's pro bono and diversity initiatives.

Representative Experience

- Managed real estate due diligence for an equity purchase transaction involving more than 60+ properties made up of a collection of upscale hotels, golf courses, restaurants, and residential communities.
- Managed the asset sale of an iconic bar, restaurant, and nightclub in Southern California including real estate, personal property, intellectual property, and liquor licenses and advised regarding potential issues in anticipation of litigation.
- Represented a client in the sale and leaseback of 450+ acres of industrial land located in San Bernardino, CA, involving seller financing.
- Assisted a leading developer of logistics real estate in its sale, acquisition, and leasing of properties nationwide.
- Effectuated the closing of the complex asset sale transaction of a prominent golf residential community located in Southern California including the transfer of all related assets, agreements, and permits.
- Advised a client on the pros and cons of purchasing industrial property located near the ports of Southern California and managed the acquisition of same.
- Represented a client in the negotiation of various subleases in Texas and Southern California.
- Assisted a client with the title and survey review for a 650+ acre commercial development project located in Northern California consisting of multiple parcels.
- Represented a client in the purchase of the then-most expensive residential property in Southern California.
- Assisted a client in the purchase and leaseback of commercial space in Southern California.

**Melissa Sanchez Malpass**

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Related Services

Financial Services
Consumer Financial Services

Education

Georgetown University
(J.D., 2005)

University of Miami
(B.S., 2002)

Admitted to Practice

District of Columbia
Florida (Inactive)

Melissa Sanchez Malpass

Counsel

Melissa Malpass advises financial institutions on compliance with federal and state consumer financial laws. She regularly counsels mortgage lenders on loan origination, including disclosures, loan originator compensation, ability-to-repay standards, and other requirements imposed by the Truth in Lending Act (TILA), Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA), and Title XIV of the Dodd–Frank Act. Melissa also advises mortgage servicers on compliance with federal and state regulations governing loss mitigation and foreclosure.

Melissa has extensive experience counseling financial institutions on fair lending matters, specifically with developing internal policies and procedures for compliance monitoring and training. She has advised financial institutions on regulatory compliance with federal consumer financial laws such as the prohibition on unfair, deceptive, and abusive practices. In particular, she provided financial technology companies with regulatory guidance on emerging payment systems and requirements under the Electronic Funds Transfer Act (EFTA).

Representative Experience

- Represented mortgage lenders, automobile lenders, and credit card issuers in federal and state agency investigations and enforcement actions brought under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (ECOA).
- Represented mortgage lenders and appraisal management companies in federal investigations brought under the Fair Housing Act.
- Assisted clients with CFPB examinations and best practices for compliance with federal consumer financial laws.
- Counseled financial institutions on a variety of regulatory issues, including fair lending, licensing, compensation, disclosures, lead generation, financial privacy, anti-money laundering, and advertising.
- Assisted clients with rolling out new financial products and services, such as credit monitoring, overdraft protection, and mobile wallet access, in compliance with financial regulatory requirements.

**Rachna S. Misra**

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Related Services

Finance
Corporate & Finance
Corporate Debt Finance
Asset-Based Lending Finance
Corporate & Finance
Corporate Debt Finance
Asset-Based Lending

Education

The University of Chicago
(J.D., 2011)

Bowling Green State University
(B.A., 2007)

Admitted to Practice

Illinois

Rachna S. Misra

Counsel

Rachna Misra represents banks, direct lending funds, and other financial institutions in debt financings. Her experience includes structuring and negotiating commercial lending transactions such as senior secured and unsecured credit facilities, cash-flow and asset-based lending transactions, first lien and second lien financings, acquisition financings, and unitranche financing. Rachna's work covers a wide range of markets and transaction sizes, from middle market to investment grade financings.

Representative Experience

- Represented a multinational investment bank in multiple syndicated and sustainability linked financings to a utility company and its parent company, including a \$1.25 billion senior revolving credit facility and a \$2 million senior revolving facility.
- Represented a multinational investment bank in a \$800 million syndicated senior secured credit facility, \$800 million syndicated senior credit facility, and \$210 million syndicated senior secured term loan facility.
- Represented a cooperative bank in a \$350 million revolving credit facility, \$215 million term loan facility, and \$205 million secured term loan facility, in each case to a rural electric cooperative.
- Represented a North American bank in a \$185 million first lien asset-based revolving credit facility for a U.S.-based steel manufacturing company and certain of its affiliates, including in a cross-border intercreditor agreement with second-lien term loan lenders.
- Represented a U.S. subsidiary of a Canadian bank in connection with a \$75 million syndicated senior secured asset-based revolving loan and term loan facility for a technology services company and certain of its subsidiaries to provide acquisition financing to the borrowers.
- Represented a North American bank in a \$205 million syndicated senior secured asset-based revolving credit facility for an agricultural cooperative and certain of its affiliates.
- Represented a private credit investment firm in a \$64.8 million syndicated senior secured credit facility for a provider of interior design and installation services and certain of its subsidiaries to provide acquisition financing to the borrowers to facilitate the purchase of new subsidiaries.
- Represented a multinational consumer goods company in its \$3 billion revolving credit facility and €350 million swingline facility with a syndicate of lenders.
- Represented a global oncology company and certain of its subsidiaries in its \$150 million cross-border senior secured revolving credit facility with a national bank and a syndicate of lenders.



Alvina (Allie) Oelhafen

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Related Services

Products Liability
Environmental Litigation
Litigation
Class Action &
Multidistrict Litigation
Life Sciences

Education

Vanderbilt University (J.D., 1994)

Vanderbilt University (B.A., 1991)

Admitted to Practice

Georgia
North Carolina
Virginia

Alvina (Allie) Oelhafen Counsel

Allie Oelhafen focuses her practice on mass tort products liability and class action litigation primarily involving environmental exposures, pharmaceuticals, and medical devices. She has been a part of national trial teams and national science teams in nationwide class actions and multidistrict litigation. In those cases, she has been responsible for the coordination of joint defense strategies; supervision of local, regional, and national counsel; management of discovery; and development of scientific and medical expert witnesses for use at trial and at Daubert hearings.

Allie originally joined Alston & Bird in 1999 in the firm's Products Liability Group defending clients in mass tort and class action litigation, specifically in drug, medical device, and wireless phone litigation. She left the firm in 2006 to be in-house at a large, international paper and packaging company. She rejoined Alston & Bird in 2017. Allie received her B.A. and her J.D. from Vanderbilt University.

**Sheena Tomar**

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Related Services

Health Care
Health Care Legislative & Public Policy
Legislative & Public Policy
Hospital Systems
Health Care Regulatory
Counseling and Fraud & Abuse
HIPAA/Health Information
Privacy, Security & Breach
Response

Education

University of Maryland
(J.D., 2012)

Georgetown University
(B.S., 2009)

Admitted to Practice

District of Columbia
(Not Admitted)
Maryland

Sheena Tomar Counsel

Shivani “Sheena” Tomar focuses her practice on regulatory and legislative matters affecting health care systems, hospitals, providers, and payers. Sheena provides guidance on various health policy issues, including Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement, long-term services and supports (LTSS), and compliance with federal and state health care regulations.

Sheena has lobbied for providers in both Maryland and Washington state on a variety of issues related to hospital taxes and fees, self-referral laws, staffing ratios, workforce barriers, health data privacy, cost transparency, charity care, and provider reimbursements.

She also understands the federal budgetary impact of health policies and regulations governing complex matters, such as Medicaid financing mechanisms (provider taxes, DSH payments, and supplemental payments), site neutrality, telehealth, pharmacy benefit managers, pharmaceutical drug costs, and managed care and fee-for-service rules for both Medicare and Medicaid.

Before joining Alston & Bird, Sheena served a D.C.-based bipartisan think tank, developing federal proposals to lower health care costs. She also represented multi-employer benefit trust funds in Washington state, where she led statewide workforce development initiatives and secured legislative funding to support Medicaid caregivers. Her background also includes roles serving hospitals at the Washington State Hospital Association and the University of Maryland Medical System.

Representative Experience

- Assisted a health care union and state departments of health in securing passage of legislation in Washington state to address Medicaid LTSS workforce issues.
- Developed a state budget proviso to help health care entities access demographic data on Medicaid long-term care clients.
- Represented a Taft-Hartley trust on implementing COVID-19 legislation and regulations.

**Sherry Yeatts**

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Related Services

Corporate & Finance
Finance
Structured & Warehouse Finance
Capital Markets & Securities
Data Centers

Education

University of Denver (J.D., 2003)
University of Virginia (B.A., 2000)

Admitted to Practice

Colorado (Inactive)
District of Columbia
Virginia

Sherry Yeatts Counsel

Sherry Yeatts works with financial institutions, issuers, originators, and investors in connection with mortgage-backed and asset-backed securitizations and the purchase, sale, servicing, warehousing, and financing of mortgage loans and other financial assets.

Sherry has significant experience developing, structuring, and negotiating structured vehicles and joint ventures across multiple asset classes, including corporate and commercial real estate loans. She represents issuers, underwriters, agents, servicers, and other investment vehicles in securitization transactions, asset-based finance, structured and secured lending, repurchase transactions, and conduit financing arrangements.

Before joining Alston & Bird, Sherry was an assistant general counsel at an international bank holding company. Sherry is active in pro bono endeavors and volunteering, including drafting wills for senior citizens, representing a local theater company with its corporate governance, and serving as a judge for high school mock trial competitions. She also volunteers for a local parish and participates in Women's Build for Habitat for Humanity.

**Charlene Yin**

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Related Services

Corporate & Finance
Finance
Structured & Warehouse Finance
Capital Markets & Securities
Asset-Based Lending
Data Centers

Education

Cornell University (J.D., 2005)

Edinburgh University
(M.A., 2002)

Vassar College (B.A., 2000)

Admitted to Practice

New York

Charlene Yin Counsel

Charlene Yin is counsel on Alston & Bird's Structured & Warehouse Finance Team. Her skills extend throughout many areas, including working with investment banks and other financial institutions on their CMBS and esoteric securitization transactions.

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*Environmental &
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*Health Care
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The Firm at a Glance



Alston & Bird provides legal counsel and services on a global basis to domestic and multinational clients across a broad range of industries. Our mission is to provide the highest-quality legal advice and responsiveness by assembling and nurturing the strongest array of legal talent and experience to meet the challenges our clients face today. A critical component of ensuring we provide effective and integrated services is our unique culture, which has been repeatedly recognized for fostering teamwork among our lawyers and with our clients.

ALSTON & BIRD

www.alston.com

Our Credentials

Alston & Bird is ranked in seven **Chambers** guides: USA, UK, Europe, Germany, Global, High Net Worth, and Fintech. Over 175 attorneys and 80 practice areas are featured for their excellence in their fields, including 28 attorneys and 25 practices ranked in Band 1 and 15 attorneys noted as Senior Statespeople and Foreign Experts.

The Best Lawyers in America® 2026 features 265 of our attorneys. **Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch**® features 161 attorneys. Four Alston & Bird lawyers are recognized in the **Best Lawyers** editions for the UK and Germany.

Alston & Bird earned 25 national and 101 metropolitan tier-one rankings in the 2025 U.S. edition of **Best Law Firms**, ranked by Best Lawyers®. Overall, the firm earned 48 national and 130 metropolitan rankings. The firm also earned 2 regional rankings in the 2025 edition of **Best Law Firms – Germany**.

**Located in
12 major markets,**
our attorneys represent
world-class companies
such as UPS, Bank of
America, Aflac Inc.,
Dell, and Nomura.



Corporate & Finance

Your success is paramount. We have grown and developed our corporate practice with that singular goal in mind. Markets are in a constant state of change, and the industry knowledge and regulatory capacity of our corporate attorneys allow us to anticipate and respond to your needs.

[READ MORE](#) ▶

Intellectual Property

Identifying, protecting, managing, and defending our clients' myriad intellectual property assets are the cornerstones of our IP practice. With experience serving the industry dating back to the roots of IP law, our lawyers have a sound foundation in the IP arena yet are nimble enough to help prepare you for trends on the horizon.

[READ MORE](#) ▶

Litigation

It's the end result that matters. Our lawyers have a strong tradition of embracing our clients' businesses and guiding them down the most favorable and cost-effective path when a dispute occurs. Whether at the negotiating table or in the courtroom, we tackle litigation of any size and complexity in nearly any jurisdiction your work takes us.

[READ MORE](#) ▶

Tax

Fortune 100 companies, high-tech startups, subsidiaries of foreign multinationals, and prestigious private foundations capitalize on our knowledge and choose Alston & Bird for their tax work. Our counsel is practical and focused on your bottom line. One of the largest law-firm-based tax practices in the country, our team uncovers every nuance of even the most complicated issues—all to your advantage.

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Our Culture

Alston & Bird has been in the premier ranking of America's **"100 Best Companies to Work For,"** the only law firm that has earned this national recognition for 26 consecutive years.

In its 2025 list of **"100 Companies That Care,"** *People* magazine ranks Alston & Bird No. 48, the 6th consecutive year the firm has appeared on the list.

For the 20th consecutive year, Alston & Bird earned a perfect rating of 100 percent in the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's **2025 Corporate Equality Index.**

In The Great Place to Work® 2024 survey of America's **"Best Workplaces for Parents,"** Alston & Bird is one of two Am Law 100 firms listed, ranking No. 14 among the survey's 100 top companies recognized for creating consistently positive experiences for retaining and sustaining working parents.

Practice Excellence

- ▶ **BTI Consulting Group** – Alston & Bird has been recognized in eight practice categories in BTI's 2026 Litigation Outlook and ranked among the BTI Awesome Opponents: The Most Feared Law Firms in Litigation. Alston & Bird was named a "Powerhouse" in Commercial Litigation and Complex Commercial Litigation, placing the firm in the top 2% of all firms. We were also recognized as a "Leader" in Complex Employment Litigation, Employment Litigation, and IP Litigation and "Distinguished" in Class Action Litigation, Product Liability Litigation, and Securities & Finance Litigation.
- ▶ **Corporate Control Alert** – Alston & Bird's Financial Advisors practice is consistently ranked in the top 10, most recently ranking No. 2 among U.S. law firms representing financial advisors in M&A activity for 2024.
- ▶ **Best Law Firms** – Our Financial Restructuring & Reorganization Group is ranked Tier 1 nationally in Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law and recognized in the top tiers in the New York and Atlanta metro areas for 2025.
- ▶ **IFLR1000** – Alston & Bird is recognized as a top "Financial Services Regulatory Counsel" in the 2024 rankings.
- ▶ **Intellectual Asset Management (IAM) Patent 1000 – The World's Leading Patent Professionals** – Alston & Bird has been recognized as a global leader in patent law in the 2025 edition, marking the 14th consecutive year that the firm has earned this recognition.
- ▶ **Chambers USA** – Alston & Bird's Health Care Group is nationally ranked as one of the "The Elite" health care law firms in America.

ALSTON & BIRD

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