



Cara M. Peterman

Partner

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Related Services

Securities Litigation ■ M&A Litigation ■ White Collar, Government & Internal Investigations ■ Privacy & Cybersecurity Litigation ■ Crisis & Data Breach Response ■ Privacy, Cyber & Data Strategy ■ Artificial Intelligence (AI) ■ DEI Strategy ■ Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG)

Public companies and their directors and officers count on Cara when they are facing high-stakes securities class actions, shareholder derivative litigation, M&A litigation, and regulatory and internal investigations, including matters arising out of criminal cyberattacks.

Cara Peterman is a partner with Alston & Bird's Securities Litigation Group. She represents public companies and their officers and directors in securities class actions, shareholder derivative suits, M&A litigation, and other complex commercial litigation. She also regularly represents clients in investigations brought by the Securities and Exchange Commission and other regulators and conducts internal, board-level investigations into alleged corporate misconduct.

Cara additionally counsels corporations and their boards on public disclosure and corporate governance matters, with a concentration on cybersecurity, data-privacy, D&O insurance, and M&A-related issues. Cara is listed in *Chambers USA* for Litigation: Securities – Georgia and was selected as a member of the *Daily Report's* "On the Rise" class in 2021. She speaks frequently on securities litigation trends and executive-level cybersecurity concerns.

Cara received her J.D. from the New York University School of Law and her B.A. from Northwestern University, and she is a member of the State Bars of Georgia and New York. She has served on the board of a nonprofit health care services provider.

Representative Experience

- Representing a higher education services provider, along with certain of its current officers, in a securities class action in Delaware federal court, a shareholder derivative action in the Delaware Court of Chancery, and an FTC action in Arizona federal court.
- Representing a global payments technology company in a shareholder derivative action alleging breach of fiduciary duty claims arising out of violations of the FTC Act.
- Representing a multinational health insurance and health care services company in an SEC investigation arising out of a significant cybersecurity incident.
- Represented Dell Technologies Inc. and certain Dell directors in Delaware litigation arising out of the company's multibillion-dollar share exchange, and represented Dell in related books and records litigation brought by Carl Icahn.
- Represented Dell Technologies Inc. in Delaware Chancery Court in a stockholder suit challenging the sale of Pivotal Software, Inc. to VMware, Inc.
- Represented a financial services company in a securities class action filed in the Northern District of Georgia and in an appeal to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

- 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 world's largest home improvement specialty retailer and certain of its officers and directors in consolidated shareholder derivative litigation alleging claims arising out of a third-party criminal cyberattack. The defendants won their motion to dismiss in a precedent-setting decision.
- Represented a communications technology company in an SEC investigation arising out of a cybersecurity incident.
- Represented the board of a warehousing and transportation company in an internal investigation following a series of cyberattacks on the company.
- Represented the board-level Special Litigation Committee of a producer and marketer of packaged bakery goods in an investigation arising out of a shareholder demand.
- Represented International Speedway Corporation and certain of its officers and directors in an action alleging breach of fiduciary duty in an acquisition of the company by NASCAR Holdings Inc.
- Represented a multinational property and casualty insurer in a Delaware shareholder derivative action alleging breach of fiduciary duty claims arising out of a related-party transaction.
- Represented one of the country's largest postsecondary education providers in False Claims Act litigation.

Publications & Presentations

Publications

- "Crisis Management Lessons from the Parenting Playbook," *Law360*, May 8, 2025.
- "Five Steps for Effective Board Oversight on Cybersecurity Breach Response," *Cybersecurity Law Report*, January 15, 2024.
- "Best Practices for Adopting and Adapting to AI: Mitigating Risk in Light of Increasing Regulatory and Shareholder Scrutiny," *Corporate Counsel*, January 6, 2025.
- "Tips For Balanced Board Oversight After a Cyberincident," *Law360*, April 23, 2024.
- "Mitigating the Risks in Era of Heightened Liability for CISOs," *Bloomberg Law*, November 28, 2022.
- "Key Trends In Recent Cyber-Related Securities Class Actions," *Law360*, September 24, 2021.
- "The Rise of Cyber-Related Securities Fraud Class Actions," *Law360*, March 12, 2018.

Presentations

- "Considering D&O Adjacent Risk: The Current State of the FTC and its Impact on D&O Risk," Professional Liability Underwriting Society, webinar, July 24, 2025.
- "Leading Minds of Governance & Tech," National Association of Corporate Directors, Atlanta, GA, April 30, 2025.
- 25th Annual Institute on Privacy and Cybersecurity Law, Practising Law Institute, Chicago, IL, June 3–4, 2024.
- "Are the Days of ESG Numbered?" PLUS D&O Symposium 2023, New York, NY, February 14, 2023.
- "O Brave New World: Combating Cyber Attacks & How to Defend Your Organization," Women, Influence & Power in Law Conference, panel, October 17, 2022.

Education

- New York University (J.D., 2009)
- Northwestern University (B.A., 2005)

Languages

- Spanish

Admitted to Practice

- Georgia
- New York