

Cara M. Peterman

Partner

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Cara Peterman is a partner with Alston & Bird's Securities Litigation Group. She focuses on shareholder derivative suits, shareholder class actions, and other complex commercial litigation. She also regularly represents clients in investigations brought by the Securities and Exchange Commission and other federal and state regulators.

Cara also counsels public companies and their boards on public disclosure and corporate governance matters, with a concentration on ESG, cybersecurity, and data-privacy-related issues. Cara was selected as a member of the *Daily Report's* "On the Rise" class in 2021. She is also listed in *Chambers USA* for Litigation: Securities – Georgia.

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.

Representative Experience

- Representing Grand Canyon Education, Inc., along with certain of its current officers in a securities class action in Delaware federal court.
- Representing Dell Technologies Inc. and certain Dell directors in litigation arising out of the company's multibillion-dollar exchange of its Class V stock for cash and shares of its Class C stock.
- 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 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 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 data breach of the company. The defendants won their motion to dismiss in a precedent-setting decision.
- Represented a multinational property and casualty insurer in a shareholder derivative action alleging breach of fiduciary duty claims arising out of a related-party transaction.
- Representing individuals and companies in several SEC investigations and enforcement actions involving cybersecurity incidents, insider trading, accounting restatements, and similar issues.
- Represented one of the country's largest postsecondary education providers in False Claims Act litigation.

Publications & Presentations

Publications

- "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.
- “Recent Supreme Court Decisions on Class Certification: No Exceptions for Securities Class Actions,” *Westlaw Journal’s Securities Litigation & Regulation*, Vol. 19, No. 8, August 20, 2013.

Presentations

- “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., October 17, 2022.
- “Important Securities Decisions and Trends from 2021 and Cases to Watch in 2022,” webinar, February 15, 2022.

Education

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

Languages

- Spanish

Admitted to Practice

- Georgia
- New York

Related Services

Securities Litigation | Privacy, Cyber & Data Strategy | Blockchain & Digital Assets