



## Chaka Patterson

Partner

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### *Related Services*

Litigation ■ Class Action & Multidistrict Litigation ■ White Collar, Government & Internal Investigations ■ Commercial ■ Corporate Governance ■ State Attorneys General Practice Team ■ False Claims Act ■ Education

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Chaka Patterson has over three decades of experience in corporate government, and private practice. He served as senior vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary at a global education corporation where he led a team of 30 and guided the business development, M&A transactions, investor relations, corporate governance, risk and compliance, and litigation functions. He was the chief of the Civil Actions Bureau for Cook County's State's Attorney in Illinois where, he managed a team of 100 lawyers in defending the county and its officeholders and employees in civil suits. Chaka also served as an assistant attorney general and chief of the Illinois Attorney General's Office Special Litigation Bureau, where he prosecuted civil and criminal fraud cases, including health care fraud, securities fraud, complex consumer fraud, charitable trust fraud, and False Claims Act cases.

Chaka's private practice experience as a partner in two Am Law 100 law firms includes representing clients in complex business and commercial litigation, white-collar criminal defense involving state attorneys general investigations, and internal investigations.

### *Representative Experience*

- Lead and national counsel for a Fortune 100 health care company facing multiple individual and class action suits relating to insulin and EpiPen pricing.
- Lead counsel for a global educational company in a class action pending in state court in Maine.
- Lead counsel for a medical device company in a product liability mass action in Colorado state court.
- Lead counsel in an internal investigation into C-suite misconduct for a Fortune 100 public company
- Assisted a client in resolving two shareholder derivative lawsuits, two shareholder class action lawsuits, eight statewide, and two national class action lawsuits. Sued the client's insurance carriers to cover the costs of the internal investigation and subsequent litigation, with the court finding in favor of the client.
- Led three divestiture transactions for on behalf of a client for \$1 billion, \$500 million, and \$100 million respectively.
- Led \$1.5 billion acquisition on behalf of a client, which included issuing \$1.5 billion in financing including bonds and term loans.
- Created and implemented a comprehensive compliance program for a Fortune 500 client; established processes and procedures for corporate governance, regulatory and securities issues.

- Led investigations into fraudulent conduct by senior executives across three different global Fortune 500 clients located in the U.S., Mexico, and Singapore.
- Represented a Fortune 500 company through post-acquisition litigation and integration tasks.
- Counseled and advised boards of directors for public companies on a variety of legal matters, including corporate governance, securities, and regulatory litigation.

## **Publications & Presentations**

### **Publications**

- “5 Ways to Transform Your Legal Department Into a Vital Business Partner” *Corporate Counsel*, June 28, 2024.

### **Presentations**

- “How to Speak the Language of Business-to-Business Clients,” The Bar Association of San Francisco, webinar, April 9, 2024.
- “Sea Change: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Higher Education After the Supreme Court Strikes Down Affirmative Action,” Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), webinar, October 13, 2023.
- “Navigating the Path to General Counsel,” 2023 Corporate Counsel Institute, Chicago, IL, September 21–22, 2023.
- “What Attorneys Need to Know About Reading and Understanding Financial Statements,” National Academy of Continuing Legal Education, August 15, 2023.
- “What Every GC Needs to Know about Insurance,” General Counsel Insurance Lunchtime Boot Camp Series, webinar, May 24, 2023.
- “Borrower Defense to Repayment: What You Need to Know Now,” 2022 Career Education Convention, Career Education Colleges and Universities, Las Vegas, NV, June 2, 2022.
- “Mentorship, Sponsorship, and Independence of the Female Attorney – The Male Perspective,” 17th Annual Leadership Institute for Women of Color Attorneys Conference, Atlanta, GA, March 25, 2022.

## **Professional & Community Engagement**

- University of Chicago Law School, Lecturer on the Law, “Advanced Civil Procedure and Complex Civil Litigation” (2023-present)
- University of Chicago Law School Intensive Trial Advocacy Course, faculty member (2021-present)
- University of Chicago Law School, law council
- Leadership Institute for Women of Color Attorneys, board of directors
- Truth Hope & Justice Foundation, board of directors
- Chicago Public Library, board of directors (appointed by Mayor and confirmed by City Council)
- Harvard Law Society of Illinois, Role Model of the Year
- Illinois Black Chamber of Commerce, Dr. Arthur Fletcher Outstanding Leadership Award
- National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, Diversity in Action Award

### **Court Admissions**

- Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals

- Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals
- Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals
- C.D. Illinois
- N.D. California
- N.D. of Illinois

## *Education*

- The University of Chicago (M.B.A.)
- Harvard University (J.D.)
- Amherst College (B.A.)

## *Admitted to Practice*

- California
- Illinois