

Deona Kalala

Senior Associate

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Deona Kalala focuses on complex commercial litigation, including high-stakes antitrust, consumer protection, and data privacy matters. Deona also advises clients on antitrust and unfair competition law in the context of mergers and acquisitions and related compliance counseling. She assists companies navigating the Hart–Scott–Rodino (HSR) merger clearance process and conducts due diligence on the antitrust implications of transactions and investments.

Deona is active with the American Bar Association. She serves as a member of the governing council of the Antitrust Law Section. Deona is also an adjunct professor at the Washington University School of Law and teaches a course on the HSR Merger Clearance process.

While Deona was an associate at another large law firm’s litigation practice, she represented transit agencies, financial institutions, manufacturers, agricultural cooperatives, and a variety of private business owners in civil litigation, including cases involving antitrust claims, contract disputes, class actions, breach of fiduciary duty, and commercial loan disputes.

Deona received her J.D. from Washington University School of Law, where she participated in a legal practice externship with the Department of Housing and Urban Development and served as a law clerk in the U.S. Attorney’s Office. Before attending law school, Deona was a client executive for a major international corporation. She earned her B.S. in industrial engineering and M.S. in economics from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Representative Experience

- Providing counsel to clients on transaction planning and managing and advising clients on the due diligence process and antitrust implications of transactions and investments.
- Represented pro bono clients before the Social Security Administration, including drafting appeal pleadings, conducting discovery, and preparing affidavits.
- Led the response to a second request issued by the FTC in 41 days for a \$4 billion transaction.
- Assisted dozens of companies navigating the Hart–Scott–Rodino pre-merger clearance process.

Publications & Presentations

Presentations

- “Does Antitrust Perpetuate Structural Racism?” New York State Bar Association Annual Meeting, webinar,, January 19-29, 2021.

Professional & Community Engagement

- American Bar Association, Antitrust Law Section, governing council member and Diversity Plan Task Force member

- American Bar Association, Antitrust Law Section, former Diversity.Advanced Initiative chair
- American Bar Association, Antitrust Law Section, former vice chair, Membership, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee, and Women.Connected Initiative
- American Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division, former Antitrust Committee, chair
- American Bar Association, Antitrust Law Section, former liaison from the Young Lawyers Division to the Antitrust Law Section
- American Bar Association, Antitrust Section, Economics Committee, young lawyer representative (2018–19)
- American Bar Association, Antitrust Section, Programs Committee, young lawyer representative (2017–18)

Education

- Washington University in St. Louis (J.D., 2013)
- Georgia Institute of Technology (M.S., 2007)
- Georgia Institute of Technology (B.S., 2006)

Admitted to Practice

- District of Columbia
- Virginia
- Georgia (Not Admitted)

Related Services

Litigation | Antitrust | Antitrust: Mergers, Compliance, and Investigations | Privacy, Cyber & Data Strategy | Privacy & Cybersecurity Litigation