

Sierra Shear

Senior Associate

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Sierra Shear is a senior associate in Alston & Bird's Securities Litigation Group and focuses her practice on securities litigation and enforcement matters, representing public companies, financial institutions, and their officers and directors in complex individual and class action cases.

Sierra graduated cum laude with her J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School. While there, she served as a senior editor of the *University Pennsylvania Law Review*. During law school, Sierra interned with Magistrate Judge Christopher J. Burke for the U.S. District Court of the District of Delaware and with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. She received her B.A., magna cum laude, from the University of Texas at Austin, where she was a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

Representative Experience

- Represented an international consumer goods manufacturer in a securities fraud class action involving claims under federal and UK law.
- Secured a settlement for a technology startup in a Securities Act class action litigated in the Commercial Division of the New York Supreme Court.
- Secured a favorable settlement for a clean energy company in a Securities Act individual action filed in Maryland State Court.
- Represented a national insurance company in a commercial class action involving breach of contract and state law fraud claims and alleged damages of more than \$200 million+.
- Defended a former senior executive of a national bank in an Office of the Comptroller of Currency enforcement action alleging unfair and unsound practices and breach of fiduciary duty claims, seeking a \$2 million civil monetary penalty.
- Secured not guilty verdicts on numerous claims while representing an individual defendant during a two week jury trial in the Northern District of California involving visa fraud, mail fraud, money laundering, and conspiracy claims.
- Defended a national insurance company in an investigation by a state attorney general concerning increases in insurance premiums.
- Represented an international bank in Securities Exchange Commission and state attorney general investigations of electronic trading practices.

Publications & Presentations

Publications

- "China's Regulatory Crackdown Is Increasing Securities Litigation Risk," *Bloomberg Law*, April 1, 2022.
- "Boardroom Considerations Ahead of Expected M&A Surge," *Law360*, December 14, 2021.

- “Key Trends In Recent Cyber-Related Securities Class Actions,” *Law360*, September 24, 2021.
- “Lessons from COVID Securities Rulings on Dismissal Bids,” *Law360*, May 19, 2021.

Education

- University of Pennsylvania (J.D., 2016)
- University of Texas at Austin (B.A., 2013)

Admitted to Practice

- District of Columbia
- Massachusetts
- New York
- Georgia (Not Admitted)

Related Services

Securities Litigation | White Collar, Government & Internal Investigations | Commercial | Litigation