

Adrienne E. Van Winkle

Partner

Adrienne E. Van Winkle has litigated a wide variety of complex civil matters before state and federal courts. She also has extensive experience in arbitration, including cases before AAA, JAMS, and CPR. Adrienne's practice focuses on professional liability defense, products liability defense, and financial services litigation. Adrienne defends both companies and individuals in auditing and accounting malpractice matters, including representing clients before the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB). Adrienne also represents both device manufacturers and pharmaceutical companies in products liability litigation, including workups for trial. Adrienne has experience with all aspects of litigation, and she recently argued an appeal in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. Adrienne is also a member of the Firm's Pro Bono Committee.

Adrienne grew up in rural Southern Illinois, where she regularly (and with great interest) observed both her father and grandfather practice law. She earned a B.S. in Economics from Washington University in St. Louis and graduated summa cum laude, while also playing basketball for the Division III Bears and serving as team co-captain her senior year. Adrienne then graduated magna cum laude from Washington University in St. Louis School of Law. Before joining Williams & Connolly in 2011, she served as Law Clerk to the Honorable Deborah Cook, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, in Akron, Ohio; and the Honorable Cecilia Altonaga, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida, in Miami.

Representative Experience

- Representation of a "Big Four" accounting firm in a three-week arbitration trial involving claims by a bankruptcy trustee for a large insurer, in which the panel issued an award in favor of the accounting firm on all claims
- Representation of a "Big Four" accounting firm in a PCAOB investigation that resulted in no charges against the firm
- Representation of a national accounting firm in a tax-preparation malpractice lawsuit
- Representation of law firms in malpractice matters, including allegations of negligently preparing transaction documents and negligently naming the wrong plaintiff in an underlying litigation



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Education

Washington University School of Law,
magna cum laude, 2008: Order of
the Coif; Washington University
Law Review

Washington University in St. Louis,
B.A., summa cum laude, 2005: Phi
Beta Kappa

Practice Focus

Accountant Liability
Lawyer Liability
Products Liability, Torts, and Medicine
Arbitration
Trademark and Copyright
Commercial Litigation

Admissions

District of Columbia and Virginia
United States Courts of Appeals for
the Sixth and Eighth Circuit
United States District Court for the
District of Columbia

- Ongoing representation of a device manufacturer in trial workups of opt-out cases in a multi-district litigation involving over 10,000 claims related to pelvic surgical mesh
- Representation of a pharmaceutical company in litigation involving over 1,100 claims related to a high blood pressure medicine, including work on company witness depositions, bellwether workups, and regulatory experts
- Representation of a mutual bank and its officers and directors against tort claims brought by depositors seeking distribution of surplus capital
- Representation of officers and directors of community banks in lawsuits brought by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation alleging negligence and breaches of fiduciary duty
- Representation of mass media company in a federal lawsuit alleging copyright infringement and related torts, in which all claims were dismissed
- Representation of an international commercial real estate data firm in a federal lawsuit alleging copyright infringement and related torts, in which all claims were dismissed
- Representation of a technology sales intelligence company in a lawsuit seeking to defend trade secrets, including claims under the federal Defend Trade Secrets Act