

Margaret A. Keeley

Partner

Meg Keeley concentrates her practice on complex civil and criminal matters. She has tried over a dozen cases, including jury trials, court trials, and arbitrations, for corporations, law firms, and individuals throughout the United States. Her recent experience includes a particular focus on the defense of professional liability claims, as well as on securities litigation and enforcement. Meg is Co-Chair of the Law Firm Defense practice group.

Meg has defended major law firms in legal malpractice and other professional liability matters, including malpractice suits arising in intellectual property matters. Though all cases vary and none is predictive, in the last two years alone, she has represented seven of the Am Law 100 firms, including defending one in a jury trial that concluded with a unanimous verdict in favor of the law firm.

Meg also has defended issuers, underwriters, investment management firms, and corporate officers and directors in securities litigation brought under the 1933 Securities Act, the 1934 Securities Exchange Act, and the Investment Advisors Act. Her experience includes defending a Bear Stearns hedge fund manager charged with securities fraud and insider trading in a trial in which the jury acquitted on all counts.

Meg's other trial and arbitration experience includes representing clients in accounting matters, contract disputes, professional liability, and negligence claims. She also has represented numerous clients in temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction hearings. Her pro bono work has included two trials with the Montgomery County public defender's office, as well as supervising several other trial and appellate teams in the office.

Meg grew up in Yuba City, California, just north of Sacramento. After receiving her B.A. from Georgetown University in 1991, she spent a year in the Jesuit Volunteer Corps NW in Portland, Oregon, working at the local public defender's office. She received her J.D., with *high honors*, from the University of Chicago Law School, where she was a member of the Order of the Coif. Following law school, Meg clerked for Judge Alfred T. Goodwin of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, before joining Williams & Connolly in 1996. After several years on the Williams & Connolly Hiring Committee, she served as its Chair from 2012-2014. Meg currently serves on the firm's Ethics Committee. She has been recognized in *Washingtonian* magazine as one of the Washington, D.C. area's best criminal defense lawyers.



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Education

University of Chicago Law School,
J.D., with high honors, 1995: Order
of the Coif
Georgetown University, B.A., 1991

Practice Focus

Arbitration
Civil Litigation and Trial Practice
Commercial Litigation
Criminal Defense and Government
Investigations
Financial Services and Banking
Law Firm Defense
Securities Enforcement
Securities Litigation

Recognitions

"Local Litigation Star" in General
Commercial Litigation and Securities,
Benchmark Litigation, 2021

Recognized as one of the "Emerging
Women Leaders in Law (Private
Practice)," *DCA Live*, 2019

"Washington's Top Lawyers" in the
category of Criminal Defense,

Representative Experience

- Defended an Am Law 100 law firm in a trial involving claims of legal malpractice where the plaintiff alleged damages of more than \$30 million, which were reduced by two-thirds through motion practice. The jury returned a complete defense verdict
- Defended an Am Law 100 firm in opposing a motion to disqualify
- Defended a Fortune 50 company in both an SEC enforcement action and a securities class action related to a merger
- Defended an investment bank in an SEC investigation related to the creation of a Collateralized Debt Offering (“CDO”)
- Defended an Am Law 100 firm against a legal malpractice claim related to the failure to file a complaint within the applicable statute of limitations
- Defended multiple patent prosecution law firms against legal malpractice claims related to missed filing deadlines
- Defended an investment bank in a federal securities class action related to the underwriting of a stock offering by a mortgage company
- Defended an investment management company in an SEC enforcement action concerning cross-trades and other alleged conflicts of interest related to the management of hedge funds and CDOs
- Defended an Am Law 100 firm in a breach of fiduciary duty action related to a representation adverse to one of its former clients
- Defending a major, national law firm in a malpractice action arising from a missed foreign filing deadline
- Defended an Am Law 100 firm against a legal malpractice claim related to creditor protection advice
- Defended an investment bank in a federal securities class action related to the underwriting of a preferred stock offering related to an oil and gas company
- Represented British Petroleum in a fraud suit against a plaintiffs’ lawyer for allegedly inflating the number of claimants he represented, and in other related matters arising out of the Deepwater Horizon spill
- Represented a Big 4 accounting firm in an arbitration of professional

Washingtonian magazine, 2009

Admissions

District of Columbia
California
United States Court of Appeals for the
Second Circuit, Federal Circuit, and
District of Columbia Circuit
United States District Court for the
District of Columbia, Maryland,
Southern District of California, and
Southern District of Texas

liability matters related to tax shelter transactions

Resources

Publications

- *Meg Keeley Authors Article on Attorney Conflicts Arising Out of Common Interest Agreements*, June 2019
- *Joint Representations in SEC Investigations*, October 2015
- *Parallel Proceedings: Consequences of Invoking the Fifth Amendment*, June 2010
- *Parallel Proceedings: To Stay or Not to Stay?*, April 2010
- *Omission Based Securities Fraud Claims: Determining a Duty to Disclose Before Reaching the Question of Materiality*, 2010

Presentations

- *Meg Keeley to Moderate PLI's Mergers & Acquisitions Panel*, January 2021
- *Meg Keeley Speaks at Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers' Annual Meeting*, June 2019
- *Meg Keeley Speaks at the ABA National Conference on Professional Responsibility*, June 2018
- *IP Malpractice and Ethics Issues*, January 2017
- *The Jury Process of Deflecting the Blame: Contributory and Comparative Negligence and Apportionment*, September 2016
- *Meg Keeley Presents Mock Trial Argument at ABA's National Legal Malpractice Conference*, September 2016
- *Ethical Issues for Financial Services Professionals*, November 2015
- *ALAS Annual General Meeting - Keynote Presentation of mock trial*, June 2015