

## R. Kennon Poteat, III

### Partner

Kennon Poteat's practice focuses on litigating complex business matters at the trial and appellate levels in federal and state courts, and before domestic and international arbitration panels. In his decade of practice, Kennon has represented Fortune 100 and Global 500 companies, Am Law 100 law firms, and corporate executives.

Kennon is actively committed to pro bono representation, having represented clients through the D.C. Bar's Advocacy and Justice Clinic and the firm's partnership with the Montgomery County, Maryland Public Defender's Office. In addition to his pro bono work, Kennon serves on the Board of Directors for Gifts for the Homeless, a wholly volunteer-run organization that serves the homeless in the Washington, D.C. area by donating used clothing and providing new clothing to over 70 shelters. Kennon also is a member of the University of Virginia Alumni Association's Board of Managers and previously served on the University of Richmond School of Law's Young Alumni Board.

Kennon was born and raised in Danville, Virginia. He received a B.S. in Commerce, with a concentration in Finance, from the McIntire School of Commerce at the University of Virginia, after which he spent two years in state politics in Virginia and North Carolina. He graduated first in his class from the University of Richmond School of Law, where he served as an editor on the *University of Richmond Law Review*. Before joining Williams & Connolly in 2008, he served as Law Clerk to the Honorable Edith Brown Clement, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, in New Orleans, and the Honorable Rebecca Beach Smith, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, in Norfolk.

Kennon lives in the District of Columbia with his wife and children.

### Representative Experience

- Served as co-lead counsel for a Fortune 500 company in a multimillion dollar dispute arising out of an M&A transaction, which was tried in early 2017 before the Supreme Court of New York in Manhattan. The two-week trial resulted in an overwhelming victory for the client.
- Served as lead counsel for a Fortune 500 company in a JAMS mediation concerning a construction dispute
- Represented a major technology company in an ICC arbitration



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### Education

University of Richmond School of Law, J.D., summa cum laude, 2006: J. Westwood Smithers Medal (for graduating first in class); William S. Cudlipp Jr. Medal; T.C. Williams Law School Scholarship Award; Annual Survey Editor, University of Richmond Law Review; Moot Court Board; Order of the Barristers; Lewis F. Powell, Jr. American Inn of Court

University of Virginia, McIntire School of Commerce, B.S., 2001: Honor Committee, Vice Chair for Trials; Honor Counsel; Lawn Resident; Pi Kappa Phi

### Practice Focus

Arbitration  
Civil Litigation and Trial Practice  
Commercial Litigation  
International Disputes  
Real Estate

### Admissions

Virginia  
District of Columbia

concerning the valuation of cross-licensing rights in a telecommunications patent license

- Represented a global electronics manufacturer in an ICC arbitration, seated in New York, involving the scope of a patent-license agreement
- Defended a Virginia company and two corporate officers in a contract dispute in federal court in Virginia
- Represented multinational law firm in a AAA arbitration concerning a claim of legal malpractice in an M&A transaction
- Defended global technology consulting firm in federal court in Virginia against claims of breach of contract and tortious interference
- Defended leading electric power development and operating company in federal court in New York and Virginia in a contract dispute

United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit

United States District Court for the Eastern and Western Districts of Virginia

## **Government Service**

Extern, Justice Donald W. Lemons, Supreme Court of Virginia, 2005  
Legal Fellow, Governor Mark R. Warner, Office of the Governor of Virginia, 2005