

A professional portrait of Kate Watson Moss, a woman with blonde hair and glasses, wearing a dark blazer, standing in a modern office hallway with a staircase in the background.

Kate Watson Moss

Chicago

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Overview

Kate concentrates her practice on high-stakes commercial litigation, including class actions, securities disputes, and corporate internal audits and government investigations. She is a trusted advisor to Fortune 500 companies, mid-sized businesses, and family-owned enterprises, helping them navigate their most complex and sensitive legal challenges.

Kate has successfully litigated cases in state and federal courts across the United States, achieving favorable outcomes in matters involving contracts, employment, securities, patents, and business disputes. Her practice is focused on protecting her clients' most valuable assets—their trade secrets, sensitive data, and reputations. Known for her strategic and decisive approach, Kate conducts internal investigations to identify and mitigate potential exposure, advocates for her clients with reporters and investigators, and, when necessary, litigates aggressively to protect their interests. Clients praise her strategic approach to litigation as being responsible for multiple favorable settlements. Clients also appreciate her years of experience litigating First Amendment issues. She uses that experience to advise clients and their PR counsel in dealing with the national media in crisis situations.

Among her notable achievements, Kate played a pivotal role in securing a nine-figure recovery for a family-owned food company in a defamation lawsuit against ABC News, recognized as the largest defamation action in U.S. history. She also obtained summary judgment for an industry-leading energy company in a \$500 million trade secret misappropriation case, following years of complex discovery.

Chronically online, Kate's deep understanding of technology and media sets her apart. She is highly attuned to emerging issues in artificial intelligence, digital privacy, and online reputation management. With a forward-looking perspective, she advises clients on navigating the evolving regulatory landscape, preserving their digital reputations, and addressing AI-related risks and opportunities.

**Matter completed prior to joining Benesch.*

Notable Representative Experience:

- Secured a nine-figure settlement for a leading beef producer in a defamation and disparagement action against ABC News, widely recognized as the largest defamation action in U.S. history.*
- Successfully defended a Fortune 500 pharmaceutical company against a defamation claim brought by a former employee, winning a critical motion on the eve of trial that was later upheld by the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals.
- Represented a global investment and advisory financial services firm in a high-profile investigation by Bloomberg News, preventing the publication of false and damaging statements about the client through strategic engagement with reporters, editors, and legal counsel.
- Represented a multinational computer technology company in a consumer class action, successfully arguing a motion in federal court that resulted in the effective termination of the case.*
- Advocated for a class of deaf and hard-of-hearing inmates in a class action against the Illinois Department of Corrections, protecting their constitutional and statutory rights.*

Representative Matters

- Represented and obtained a favorable settlement for a global technology company in an arbitration.
- Representing a major food delivery technology platform in disputes and arbitrations with merchants, consumers, contractors and partners.
- Represented a global investment and advisory financial services firm in connection with a negative investigation about the company and its subsidiaries
- Persuaded a major news network to refrain from publishing a politically driven and defamatory long-form broadcast report about her client, a well-known philanthropist, and his grantmaking network.
- Represented a “Real Housewife of Beverly Hills” in her defamation lawsuit against an anonymous blogger.
- On the eve of trial, succeeded on a “Hail Mary” motion to throw out a defamation claim against a Fortune 500 pharmaceutical company brought by a former employee.
- Represented a leading beef producer in a breach of contract and breach of fiduciary dispute brought by an employee.

- Represented a leading beef producer in a defamation and disparagement action against ABC.

Credentials

EDUCATION

- DePaul University College of Law, 2015, J.D., *summa cum laude*
 - Order of the Coif
 - Editor-in-Chief, DePaul Law Review
- Northwestern University, 2011, B.A., Philosophy
 - General Manager, WNUR, Northwestern University's Student-Run Radio Station

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

- Illinois

Awards & Recognition

- Selected, Crain's Chicago Notable Women in Law, 2026
- Listed, *Best Lawyers in America*® Ones to Watch, Commercial Litigation, 2023-2026

News & Insights

- [Only the Strong Survive: Easy Pitfalls to Avoid as a Defamation Plaintiff](#)
April 23, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- [Benesch Partner Kate Watson Moss Selected as 2026 Notable Woman in Law by Crain's Chicago](#)
March 4, 2026 | Press Releases
- [129 Benesch Attorneys Recognized in 2026 Best Lawyers® Rankings](#)
August 21, 2025 | Press Releases
- [132 Benesch Attorneys Recognized in 2025 Best Lawyers® Rankings](#)
August 14, 2024 | Press Releases
- [Benesch Names Nine New Partners for 2024](#)
January 2, 2024 | Press Releases
- [Benesch's Chicago Office Keeps Growing with Four New Attorneys](#)
October 30, 2023 | Press Releases
- [Watson Moss mentioned in Crain's Chicago People on the Move](#)
October 30, 2023 | Media Mentions

- [Best Lawyers in America® Rankings 2024](#)
August 17, 2023 | Press Releases
- [J. Erik Connolly quoted in Variety | "'RHOBH' Star Diana Jenkins Sues 'Crazy Days & Nights' Blogger Over Sex Trafficking Claim"](#)
November 3, 2022 | Media Mentions
- [U.S. News & World Report - Best Lawyers Rankings 2023](#)
August 18, 2022 | Press Releases

Speaking & Events

PAST EVENTS

- [A Practical Guide for Dealing with Online Reviews | Lauri A. Cooper, Kate Watson Moss](#)
April 19, 2026 | Speaking Engagement
- [Navigating the Complexities of Modern Practice Management | Kate Watson Moss, Lauri A. Cooper](#)
April 16, 2026 - April 19, 2026 | Speaking Engagement
- [B-Sharp at Breakfast: 2022 Trade Secret and Restrictive Covenant Year in Review and what to look for in 2023 \(including from the FTC\)](#)
February 9, 2023 | Firm Events
- [2022 Trade Secret and Restrictive Covenant Year in Review and What to Look for in 2023 | Margo Wolf O'Donnell, Kate Watson Moss, Katie Burnett](#)
February 9, 2023 | Firm Events
- [B-Sharp: Critical Updates on Restrictive Covenants and Trade Secret Law](#)
June 16, 2022 | Firm Events