

Kate Watson Moss

Chicago
T 312.624.6329
kwatsonmoss@beneschlaw.com

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

- Achieved a significant victory for Billings Hockey, LLC and East Idaho Hockey, Inc. in expedited litigation involving the enforceability of hockey league noncompete agreements. Successfully defeated efforts to prevent our clients from competing in a new league, resulting in a favorable resolution and dismissal with prejudice, while protecting their ability to compete in future seasons.
- Represented and obtained a favorable settlement for a global technology company in an arbitration with one of its customers, a consumer product company, over an unsuccessful software integration.
- 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 being led by a team of reporters at Bloomberg News. Within a week, provided pages of material contradicting the "findings" of the investigative reporter, held an in-person meeting with the reporters, their editors and Bloomberg's counsel, and prevented the publication of negative statements and outright falsehoods about the client.

- 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. Obtained a favorable settlement that resulted in all harmful publications about her being removed from the defendant’s website.
- 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. The trial court’s decision was later upheld by the Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.
- Represented a leading beef producer in a breach of contract and breach of fiduciary dispute brought by an employee. Secured a beneficial settlement after winning a hotly contested discovery and spoliation motion.

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

- Group Defamation Claims and the Evolving Limits of the Group Libel Doctrine
  October 22, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights

- Crain's Chicago Features Article by Benesch Partner Kate Watson Moss on Protecting Businesses' Reputations and Brands from Defamation
  October 12, 2026 | Contributed Content & Presentations
- Lessons from Kai Spears v. The New York Times Co.: A Historic Defamation Verdict
  October 6, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- Key Considerations for Businesses Facing Defamation Issues: Strategies for Protecting Your Reputation and Brand
  September 24, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- Crisis in Real Time: How Companies Win (and Lose) the First Hours
  September 3, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- Defamation Dispatch: Q2 2026
  August 18, 2026 | Newsletters
- 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

Speaking & Events

PAST EVENTS

- 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