Holland & Hart



Kimberly Brunelle Willis

Partner

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Kim provides sophisticated counsel to companies in all phases of dispute resolution through efficient and effective advocacy.

Kim represents clients facing high-stakes complex civil litigation in federal and state court, mediation, formal arbitration proceedings, and internal and white-collar investigations, including by the SEC and DOJ. She takes the time to understand each client's goals, risks, and pressure points. She seeks to identify practical, creative solutions and strategies to avoid litigation where possible and, if not, to mitigate its intrusion and protect business interests. From her secondment at Citigroup, Inc., where she managed regulatory and internal investigations, enforcement, and litigation proceedings, Kim understands these matters from a client's perspective.

Kim's experience as a commercial litigator encompasses several sub-specialties, including securities law, corporate governance, bribery and corruption, business torts, trade secrets, non-compete and non-solicitation covenants, and civil fraud. She guides companies through all stages of litigation and investigation and advises on compliance issues and corporate best practices.

Kim shares an unwavering commitment to her community, as shown by her pro bono practice focusing on trafficking issues and her service on Holland & Hart's pro bono committee, where she identifies and facilitates opportunities for attorneys within the firm to provide legal assistance to those who would otherwise not have access.

Prior to joining Holland & Hart, Kim practiced for six years as a litigation and enforcement attorney at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP in New York. Kim also served as a law clerk to the Honorable William G. Young of the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts.

CLIENT RESULTS

Client Secondments

Associate General Counsel at Citigroup, Inc. in the Institutional Clients Group Litigation and Regulatory Enforcement team for seven months. Managed a broad range of regulatory and internal investigations, enforcement and other inquiries conducted by federal and state regulatory authorities and self-regulatory agencies. Interfaced with enforcement attorneys and examination staff at the DOJ, SEC, FINRA and state regulatory authorities, prepared responses to subpoenas and civil investigative demands (CIDs) and advised businesses on strategy and resolutions. Oversaw a variety of domestic and international civil litigation,

PRACTICES

Business Litigation
Government Investigations and White Collar Defense
Stakeholder Disputes
FCPA and Anti-Corruption
Finance

EDUCATION

Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University, J.D., 2011
magna cum laude
Order of the Coif
Senior Articles Editor, *Cardozo Law Review*

Boston College, B.A., 2008
magna cum laude
Order of the Cross and Crown

BAR ADMISSIONS

Colorado
New York

COURT ADMISSIONS

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit
U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado

including securities class actions, commercial disputes, and merger and acquisition matters. Responded to civil subpoenas, managed litigation discovery and prepared witnesses for testimony.

Complex Civil Litigation

Defended aerospace company in Colorado state court jury trial facing breach of contract and fraud claims with alleged damages of $70 million plus $25 million in prejudgment interest; tried two-week jury trial with a complete defense verdict.

Represented internet marketing company in arbitration involving eight-figure arbitration against major social media company.

Represented Fortune 500 technology company in federal litigation and arbitration in multi-million dollar contract disputes.

Successfully resolved state and federal False Claims Act cases filed against health care clients.

Defended financial guaranty insurer in New York State Court in a $1.4 billion litigation and appeal involving contractual and valuation claims for terminated credit default swaps.

Defended European bank in Madoff feeder fund litigation in US Bankruptcy Court (SDNY) and British Virgin Islands.

Defended major international law firm in a series of employment law actions. Negotiated dismissal of one action and settlement of two other actions.

Handled third-party subpoenas for multinational companies and international banks.

Enforcement, Investigations, and Compliance

Conducted internal investigation of publicly owned oil company and presented findings to board of directors.

Represented European bank in a Dodd-Frank swap dealer compliance investigation conducted by the CFTC. Delivered multiple presentations to the CFTC and NFA. The matter was resolved in a favorable settlement order.

Advised Mexican infrastructure company in a domestic regulatory banking investigation, and an assessment of potential exposure to US securities laws and Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA). The investigation resolved in a favorable settlement order with no collateral impact in the US.

Represented major international bank in trading investigation by the SEC. Successfully defended matter on jurisdictional grounds.

Advised large Middle Eastern sovereign wealth fund on anti-corruption issues under the FCPA and UK Bribery Act in connection with a high-risk

asset acquisition.

Counseled major international bank on Sarbanes-Oxley Act (SOX) compliance requirements.

Counseled multinational clients on FCPA compliance issues and advised on anti-corruption policies and procedures.

Pro Bono Representation

Regular advocate on Colorado's human trafficking hotline.

Obtained asylum for three Pakistani women after serving as lead counsel for the women in US Attorney's Office (EDNY) prosecution involving honor killings.

Vacated New York criminal convictions and obtained visas for sex trafficking victims.

Drafted organizational documents and obtained tax exemption for the second-ever New York charitable bail fund.

RECOGNITION

- *Benchmark Litigation*, Future Star, 2026

PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC AFFILIATIONS

- Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation, Leadership Denver, Class of 2026