

Kristin McGough

She/Her
Counsel

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Kristin brings more than 15 years of experience in civil rights, criminal legal system reform, and criminal defense work to the firm's pro bono civil rights practice. She identifies intakes and oversees the development and litigation of pro bono criminal and civil rights matters. She provides resident knowledge and expertise related to criminal defense and collateral relief matters, the Prison Litigation Reform Act, and actions under 42 U.S.C § 1983, *Bivens v. Six Unknown Fed. Narcotics Agents* and the Federal Tort Claims Act.

Before joining Winston & Strawn, Kristin was the Supervising Counsel for the Prisoners' Rights team at the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs, a non-profit racial justice organization. There, she leveraged structural litigation with related public policy advocacy to enforce the civil rights and civil liberties of individuals incarcerated both locally and in the federal Bureau of Prisons.

Prior to joining the Committee, Kristin spent nearly a decade running her own legal practice, focused almost exclusively on representing indigent criminal defendants in the District of Columbia as a Criminal Justice Act attorney. She has handled hundreds of cases at every offense level—from traffic violations to homicides—and tried nearly 20 cases before a jury.

Kristin began her legal career as a law clerk to the Civil Division and thereafter to the Honorable Joan Zeldon at the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, assisting in the management of complex civil litigation calendars. She went on to serve as an Assistant United States Attorney at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, in both the Sex Offense and Domestic Violence Section and the Appellate Division, before joining a small boutique law firm, where her practice focused on both civil and criminal litigation, including local and international white-collar criminal defense matters.

Recognitions

Selected to *Super Lawyers' Magazine* Rising Stars list in Criminal Defense from 2017-2019.

Credentials

EDUCATION

Kristin received her J.D., *cum laude*, from The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law, where she served on *The Catholic University Law Review* and was a member of the Trial Advocacy team. She also holds an M.Sc. in Evidence-Based Social Work from the University of Oxford, and a B.A. from The College of William and Mary.

ADMISSIONS

- District of Columbia
- Maryland