



Johanna Rae Hudgens

Partner

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Johanna counsels individuals and multinational clients in complex commercial, antitrust, and white-collar matters, whether it is working with them to avoid or resolve government intervention, or representing them in civil litigations on either the plaintiff's or defendant's side. Johanna's dedication to client goals is enhanced by her focus on their business realities. Her experience as a judicial clerk in the Eastern District of New York offers clients behind-the-scenes insight into the judicial process and potential outcomes.

Johanna focuses her practice on government antitrust and white-collar investigations, complex commercial litigation, and compliance program counseling. She has experience representing plaintiffs and defendants in complex and multidistrict litigation involving issues of monopolization, conspiracy, contract and warranty disputes, products liability, FCPA, corporate and executive liability, and the intersection of antitrust and intellectual property. In addition to representing businesses across the financial services, food and beverage, and technologies industries, Johanna represents individual clients across the United States in investigations and criminal matters involving white-collar and antitrust issues.

Johanna also counsels multinational clients on a range of legal issues and advises clients in developing comprehensive compliance programs attuned to the risks represented in their industries and jurisdictions. She

combines her cross-practice experience in matters with government touchpoints with an intimate understanding of client industries to achieve practical, business-forward outcomes in both civil and criminal matters.

Representative matters include the following:

- Represented a **leading provider of transportation services** in a breach of contract action regarding the provision of telecommunication services, managing the case team, drafting key briefings, and conducting depositions in the matter.
- Defended **client that operated online cashback portal** in claims that included breach of contract, drafting a successful motion to compel arbitration, counseling the client as to revisions to its arbitration provisions, and favorably settling the matter after the plaintiff was ordered to arbitrate.
- Represents **lead plaintiff** in a multidistrict litigation alleging numerous state and federal antitrust claims and pending in the Southern District of New York, and as a third party in a Massachusetts state court proceeding alleging breach of contract. Her experience in this pending matter ranges across motion practice, witness preparations and depositions, expert preparation, arguments, and negotiations.
- Represents client in *pro bono* action in parallel New York state proceedings for claims arising out breach of a licensing agreement, managing the litigation team, drafting motion briefings, and arguing on behalf of the client in court.
- Represents a **financial services institution** in matters across multiple jurisdictions including the Southern District of New York and the District of New Mexico.
- Represents a **financial services institution** in a class action lawsuit pending in the Eastern District of New York, alleging numerous state and federal antitrust and commercial claims, including handling motions practice, argument preparation, witness preparations and depositions, and negotiations for the ongoing matter.
- Represents **eight defendants** in a multidistrict litigation alleging numerous state and federal antitrust claims and pending in the Northern District of Illinois. Her experience in the case ranges across motion practice, significant discovery practice, client preparation, and negotiations.
- Represents **individual clients** in numerous criminal investigations and litigations in multiple jurisdictions, including the Eastern District of New York, Southern District of New York, District of Massachusetts, and District of Connecticut.

Johanna is committed to both *pro bono* representation and public service, making it an integral part of her practice. Her *pro bono* representations include representing **individuals at Riker's Island** who are alleging religious discrimination; a **victim of human trafficking** in connection with a criminal investigation and restitution proceedings; **disabled recipients of Medicaid-funded home care services** in a class action alleging violation of state and federal law; and **student plaintiffs** in a civil lawsuit against their university, leading to a landmark settlement on the eve of trial. In addition to her active *pro bono* practice, Johanna also serves as a mentor and coach for high school domestic and international moot court competitions in conjunction with the Justice Resource Center.

Prior to joining Winston, Johanna was a judicial clerk in the Eastern District of New York and was an associate in a leading international law firm as part of the firm's dispute resolution group.

Recent Experience

Secured High-Profile Acquittal at Trial for Matthew Grimes on Charges He Acted as an Unregistered Foreign Agent

Recognitions

Johanna was recognized by *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America* in the areas of Antitrust Law and Litigation-Antitrust from 2022–2025. She was also recognized as a “key lawyer” in the 2023 edition of *The Legal 500 US* in the area of Antitrust Civil Litigation/Class Actions: Defense.

Credentials

EDUCATION

Johanna received a B.A. in political science and history in 2009 from Wellesley College. She received her J.D. from Columbia Law School in 2014, where she was a James Kent Scholar and recipient of the Warner W. Gardner Summer Research Fellowship. Additionally, Johanna was the managing editor of the *Columbia Human Rights Law Review* and a teaching assistant in contracts and federal civil procedure. During law school, Johanna interned in the New York State Office of the Attorney General and the State of Alaska Department of Law, under direction of the Attorney General, and participated in Columbia’s Environmental Law Clinic.

ADMISSIONS

- New York

CLERKSHIPS

- USDC - Eastern District of NY for the Honorable Brian M. Cogan
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Related Insights & News

Co-author, “[United States Antitrust Overview](#),” *The Mergers & Acquisitions Review*, 14th Edition, January 2021

RECOGNITIONS

Winston Team Featured as Runner-Up in LOTW Column

SEPTEMBER 20, 2024

RECOGNITIONS

Winston Attorneys Recognized in *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America* 2025

AUGUST 15, 2024

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Johanna Hudgens Speaks at ABA Event on Navigating the Crossroads of Antitrust and Sports Law

FEBRUARY 27, 2024

PRO BONO IN ACTION

Victory for Inmate's Rights: Winston Team Secures Verdict and Compensation in ADA Case

FEBRUARY 12, 2024

PRESS RELEASE

Winston & Strawn Names 16 New Partners

DECEMBER 1, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

Winston Attorneys Recognized in *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America* 2024

AUGUST 17, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Recognized in *The Legal 500 U.S.* 2023

JUNE 7, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Antitrust/Competition Practice Recognized in 2023 GCR 100

DECEMBER 19, 2022

CLIENT SUCCESS

Winston Wins Complete Acquittal of Matthew Grimes in High-Profile Trial of "Espionage Lite" Claims

NOVEMBER 4, 2022

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Attorneys Recognized in *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in America* 2023

AUGUST 18, 2022

BLOG

The Revival of Corporate Monitorships in Global FCPA Resolutions

JUNE 24, 2022

BLOG

Criminal Charges Will Be Brought for Section 2 Violations, the DOJ Warns

MARCH 9, 2022

Capabilities

Commercial Litigation & Disputes

Antitrust/Competition

Technology Antitrust

Intellectual Property

Litigation/Trials

International Arbitration

Government Investigations, Enforcement & Compliance