



## Kelly M. Ellis

Partner

Chicago

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**Kelly is a commercial litigator and appellate attorney with standup experience in trial and appellate courts across the country, who focuses on business and mass tort litigation across a variety of industries, from financial services, to health care, to manufacturing.**

Kelly has substantial experience representing clients in business tort litigation involving allegations of fraud, breach of contract, trade secret theft, and/or unfair competition, as well as mass tort cases alleging personal injury and/or product defects. She has experience in all aspects of commercial litigation, from pleadings and pre-trial motions to trials and appeals. Drawing from her end-to-end civil practice, she is both a trial attorney and a critical motions attorney, coordinating case strategy and writing briefs designed to serve both short-term and long-term business objectives.

Her notable past engagements include securing a US\$100M jury verdict on behalf of a software company in a complex trade secret case, representing a logistics company over a two-week federal jury trial leading to a favorable post-trial settlement, successfully advocating for individual arbitration on behalf of an insurance client facing putative class action litigation, and obtaining an early-stage dismissal for a pharmaceutical client charged with antitrust conspiracy. She maintains an active pro bono practice, representing incarcerated individuals in habeas appeals and Section 1983 cases, as well as asylum seekers in immigration proceedings. She also advises pro se litigants each month on federal court practice and procedure as part of the U.S. District Court's Hibbler Memorial Pro Se Assistance Program.

Prior to joining the firm, Kelly served as a law clerk to the Honorable Amy J. St. Eve of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. Prior to her federal clerkship, Kelly practiced commercial litigation for an international law firm in New York City, focusing her practice on complex contract disputes and federal securities law.

## Recent Experience

Secured Settlement for Fox on Brink of Trial in High-Profile Defamation Litigation Brought by US Dominion Voting Systems

Secured Nearly US\$105M Trial Victory Against Ford Motor Co.

## Recognitions

Kelly was recognized in the 2023 and 2024 editions of *Lawdragon's* "500 X – The Next Generation" for Commercial Litigation, Appellate.

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## Credentials

### EDUCATION

Kelly received a B.A., *summa cum laude*, in political science from the University of Notre Dame in 2010. While at Notre Dame, she served as an editor for *Beyond Politics* and an AP News Reporter for WSND-FM. In 2013, Kelly received a J.D., *cum laude*, from Georgetown University Law Center, where she was an executive editor for the *Georgetown Journal of International Law*.

### ADMISSIONS

- Illinois
- New York

### CLERKSHIPS

- USDC - Northern District of IL for the Honorable Amy J. St. Eve
- USDC - Northern District of IL for the Honorable Amy J. St. Eve

### LANGUAGES

- French
- Spanish

## Related Insights & News

- *International Law, Federal Courts, and Executive Discretion: The Interplay in Immigration Detention*, 44 Geo. J. Int'l L. 1217 (2013) (Note)
- *Steubenville and Beyond: The Constitutional Case for Comprehensive Sex Education*, 20 Cardozo J.L. & Gender 307 (2014) (Article)

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## RECOGNITIONS

Winston Team Led by Dan Webb and Matthew Carter Receives Shout Out in Litigator of the Week Column

JANUARY 17, 2025

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## RECOGNITIONS

Winston Attorneys Featured on 2024 *Lawdragon* 500 X – The Next Generation List

JUNE 28, 2024

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## BLOG

Fifth Circuit Clarifies Impossibility Preemption Defense for Drug Manufacturers Facing State Law Failure-to-Warn Claims

JUNE 27, 2024

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## NEWS

2023 Pro Bono Impact Report

MAY 1, 2024

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## RECOGNITIONS

Winston Attorneys Featured on *Lawdragon's* Inaugural 500 X – The Next Generation List

JULY 7, 2023

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## CLIENT SUCCESS

Winston Acts as Lead Trial Counsel for Fox News and Fox Corp. in US Dominion Voting Systems Defamation Cases, Settling Matter on Brink of Trial

APRIL 18, 2023

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## PRO BONO IN ACTION

Winston Secures Long-Awaited Asylum for Ugandan Refugee

DECEMBER 29, 2022

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## PRESS RELEASE

Winston & Strawn Names 19 New Partners

DECEMBER 6, 2022

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## CLIENT SUCCESS

Winston Secures Tremendous Victory in Jury Trial of High-Stakes Contract and Trade Secrets Dispute

OCTOBER 28, 2022

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## RECOGNITIONS

Winston Team Led by Dan Webb and Matthew Carter Featured in Litigator of the Week Column  
OCTOBER 28, 2022

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## **BLOG**

The Ninth Circuit Certifies Question about the Scope of the Learned Intermediary Doctrine to the California Supreme Court

MAY 2, 2022

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## **PRO BONO IN ACTION**

Pro Bono Reporter – Fall 2018

FALL 2018

# Capabilities

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Commercial Litigation & Disputes

Appellate & Critical Motions

Product Liability & Mass Torts

Insurance Litigation