



Elizabeth Ireland

Partner

Charlotte
+1 704-350-7812

Clients in the financial services sector regularly seek out Elizabeth for advice and counseling pertaining to regulatory matters, white collar defense, and high-stakes government/internal investigations. She has defended a wide range of companies in class actions and successfully won cases at all stages of litigation. Throughout her career, Elizabeth has always taken a leadership role in the Charlotte community and the firm.

Elizabeth frequently works with companies and audit committees in connection with internal investigations, regulatory defense, and white collar criminal matters. She has worked on multiple investigations in connection with whistleblower allegations. She also has worked with banking clients on multiple Consumer Financial Protection Bureau enforcement and supervisory actions, and has represented clients in matters against the Department of Justice, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Federal Reserve Bank, Commodities Futures Trading Commission, National Futures Association, Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, and Federal Trade Commission, among other government/regulatory entities. She presents regularly about the topic of attorney-client privilege and has represented companies in connection with unique privilege-related issues.

Elizabeth has experience representing clients in all stages of litigation. She has won multiple motions to dismiss and summary judgment motions in multiple jurisdictions at the state and federal level. She regularly handles class action settlements and has experience with resolving tricky settlement-related issues. Elizabeth has worked extensively on

matters with financial services clients covering a range of topics, including mortgage servicing, mortgage origination, foreign exchange, legal order processing, garnishments, credit reporting, and credit card products. When appealed, her litigation victories have regularly been upheld.

Within the food and beverage sector, Elizabeth has represented companies in cases related to product labeling. In particular, she has defended companies in litigation based on the terms “all natural,” “Made in the USA” and the inclusion of “evaporated cane juice” on product labels. Elizabeth worked on the team that successfully defended a major spirits manufacturer and distributor, obtaining victories at the motion to dismiss stage in cases related to the use of the terms “handcrafted” and “handmade.” She has also contributed to cases related to product safety for food industry clients.

Key Matters

Elizabeth frequently works with companies and audit committees on internal investigations, regulatory defense, and white collar criminal matters. She conducted a major internal investigation into whistleblower allegations at a mortgage servicing company. She also has worked with financial services companies on multiple Consumer Financial Protection Bureau enforcement actions, and has worked on matters involving the Commodities Futures Trading Commission, Department of Justice, and Federal Trade Commission, among other regulatory entities.

Elizabeth also advises clients in the financial services industry. She successfully obtained victories for a major company in mortgage-related litigation. She has won multiple motions to dismiss and summary judgment motions or helped settled cases challenging mortgage origination and servicing practices in a number of state and federal court actions.

Elizabeth also has experience representing food and beverage companies in cases related to product labeling. In particular, she has defended companies in litigation based on the terms “all natural,” “Made in the USA” and the inclusion of “evaporated cane juice” on product labels. She has defended pet food companies in labeling litigation. Elizabeth has conducted extensive research on the use of certain terms such as “free of artificial ingredients,” “preservative free,” and “clean” related to proposed menu items for a major quick-serve restaurant chain, and she has reviewed the impact of terms such as “fresh,” “trans fat,” “no sugar added,” “antioxidants,” “no preservatives,” “omega 3,” and “healthy” on product labels. Elizabeth worked on the team that successfully defended a major spirits manufacturer and distributor, obtaining victories at the motion to dismiss stage in cases related to the use of the terms “handcrafted” and “handmade.” She has also worked on cases related to product safety for food industry clients, assisting with the settlement case with breach of warranty, products liability, and negligence claims related to pizza allegedly contaminated with hepatitis. One of Elizabeth’s case victories led to the dismissal with prejudice of a case related to allegations about the use of trans fats and partially hydrogenated vegetable oil in popcorn products.

Recent Experience

Snack Company Dismissed from PHVO Ingredient Class Action

Recognitions

Elizabeth was recognized on *Charlotte Business Journal's* 2024 "40 Under 40" list. She was also recognized as a "Key Lawyer" in the 2024 edition of *The Legal 500 US* in the area of Financial Services Litigation. She has been named by *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America* in Commercial Litigation and White Collar Criminal Defense from 2021–2023. She was a member of the Mecklenburg County Bar's Bar Leadership Institute Class of 2018. She recently participated in the inaugural leadership program for the National Association of Women Lawyers. In 2020, Elizabeth was inducted into the North Carolina Pro Bono Honor Society.

Activities

Elizabeth works on a variety of pro bono matters on behalf of Winston. She has been a guardian ad litem in the North Carolina court system since 2007, and regularly represents the interests of children who have been abused or neglected during court hearings. In connection with one of her pro bono matters, in 2015, Winston was recognized by the Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) as a recipient of the 2015 ALDF Advancement in Animal Law Pro Bono Achievement Award. She has also represented incarcerated clients and children seeking special immigrant juvenile status.

Elizabeth is a board member of the Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy and serves on the Great Gatsby Gala Committee as part of the MS Society Board in Charlotte.

Prior to attending law school, Elizabeth was a fellow at The Duke Endowment in Charlotte.

Elizabeth has served on the firm's Associates Committee and currently serves on the Recruiting Committee and Pro Bono Committee.

Credentials

EDUCATION

Elizabeth received a J.D. from the University of North Carolina School of Law, where she was the circulation editor of the *North Carolina Journal of International Law and Commercial Regulation*. In 2013, she received a M.P.P. from the Sanford School of Public Policy at Duke University. She received a B.A., *cum laude*, in Religion in 2007 from Davidson College, where she was a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

ADMISSIONS

- North Carolina

Related Insights & News

- "Banking and Financial Services Under the Trump Administration: Fintech, Payments, Regulatory and Enforcement Priorities," Strafford CLE Webinar, Speaker, April 1, 2025
- "[DOJ's Changes to Corporate Enforcement Policy Present Obstacles](#)," Bloomberg Law, Contributor, Feb. 2023
- "[Tips to Follow DOJ Guidance and Survive Corporate Investigations](#)," Bloomberg Law, Contributor, Jan. 2023
- "Do Not Abort the Mission: An Analysis of the European Court of Human Rights Case of *R.R. v. Poland*," 38 *N.C. J. Int'l L. & Com. Reg.* 651, Author, 2013

- “Class Actions 101: In their Own Words: Deposing, and Often Exposing, Plaintiffs,” Class Action Insider, Co-author, Oct. 2022
 - “How to Navigate DOJ’s Update on Corporate Criminal Enforcement,” *Bloomberg Law*, Co-author, Oct. 2022
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BLOG

Rebalancing the Sticks and the Carrots? A New DOJ White-Collar Enforcement Plan

MAY 20, 2025

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Elizabeth Ireland Speaks on Webinar Discussing Banking & Financial Services Under the Trump Administration

APRIL 1, 2025

BLOG

Shifting the Focus: Growing Risks of Class Action Litigation in Lieu of CFPB (Non)-Enforcement

MARCH 26, 2025

SEMINAR/CLE

Fourth Annual Queen Charlotte’s Tea

MARCH 19, 2025

SEMINAR/CLE

Winston Hosts 2025 Financial Services Symposium in Charlotte

JANUARY 30, 2025

SEMINAR/CLE

NYDFS Enforcement and Supervision Trends

DECEMBER 10, 2024

SPONSORSHIP

Winston & Strawn Sponsors Government Investigations & Civil Litigation Institute’s Tenth Annual Meeting

NOVEMBER 19, 2024

IN THE MEDIA

Elizabeth Ireland Discusses CFPB’s Zelle Scrutiny and What Banks Can Do to Prepare in Law360

SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

IN THE MEDIA

Caitlin Mandel, Basil Godellas, and Elizabeth Ireland Discuss Securities and Exchange Commission Regulations with *Fundfire*

JULY 22, 2024

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Recognized in *The Legal 500 U.S.* 2024

JUNE 12, 2024

IN THE MEDIA

Basil Godellas and Elizabeth Ireland Discuss Fifth Circuit Nullification of SEC Private Funds Advisor Rule with *Refinitiv*

JUNE 7, 2024

CLIENT ALERT

Investment Advisers Receive Reprieve from Private Funds Rule

JUNE 7, 2024

Capabilities

Litigation/Trials

Class Actions & Group Litigation

Commercial Litigation & Disputes

Product Liability & Mass Torts

Government Investigations, Enforcement & Compliance

Financial Services Transactions & Regulatory

Financial Services Litigation

Insurance Litigation

Public Companies

Crisis Management

Financial Services

Insurance