



Bonnie Lynn Chmil

Partner

Private Wealth

New York Office | +1.212.940.6415

bonnie.chmil@katten.com

Representing private clients in litigation requires an appreciation for the dynamics of these often-sensitive disputes. Whether Bonnie is advising high-net-worth individuals, families or fiduciary trust companies, she balances her extensive experience in commercial litigation with a sensitivity to the needs and expectations of private clients and fiduciaries.

Finding efficient solutions for sensitive litigation

Bonnie knows that most parties want a quick and practical resolution to private client disputes. She therefore focuses on her clients' desired endgame from day one, looking for the most efficient way of getting there. It's a no-nonsense approach that often results in favorable resolutions. For Bonnie and her clients, those can come either through negotiated settlements or effective litigation tactics.

Bonnie demonstrated her talent for efficiency when she attended college and law school at night while working in the financial services industry. That experience provided valuable background for her present work, and it has helped her to achieve success for her clients' results. Among other wins, Bonnie has earned the dismissal of a \$40 million fraud claim against an insurer, defeated a \$100 million claim against an estate and secured a \$150 million settlement for a client against the estate of her ex-husband.

On top of her industry experience, Bonnie brings detailed knowledge of commercial litigation to all of her work. She regularly represents clients in disputes involving real estate, commercial contracts and business torts.

Representative Experience

- Defended a global trade credit insurance company against tort claims in which the plaintiff bank sought in excess of \$42 million in damages. Dismissal was affirmed by the Appellate Division, First Department.
- Defend a national banking association in its capacity as corporate trustee against claims brought by beneficiaries pertaining to a property sale. Plaintiffs seek in excess of \$100 million in damages.

Practices

- Commercial Litigation
- Fiduciary and Private Client Litigation
- International Private Wealth
- Litigation
- Private Wealth
- Real Estate Litigation

Industries

- Family Offices
- Private Client Services

Education

- JD, Fordham University School of Law
- BA, Fordham University, *summa cum laude*

Bar Admissions

- New York

Court Admissions

- US District Court, Eastern District of New York
- US District Court, Southern District of New York

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- Represented executors of a \$279 million estate against claims brought by family members seeking in excess of \$85 million.
- Represented global financial institution in various litigations arising out of a \$400 million Ponzi scheme.
- Represented minority shareholder in breach of fiduciary and related claims against the officers, directors and majority shareholder of a privately held company.
- Represent beneficiaries in multi-generational family trust disputes.
- Represented international trust company in a dispute involving a Manhattan condominium.
- Achieved favorable settlement of a beneficiary's claims against a multibillion-dollar estate.
- Represented lenders in various commercial project disputes, including a luxury condominium development project in Manhattan; a mixed-used project anchored by a luxury hotel in Paradise Valley, Arizona; and various commercial properties in New York, New Jersey and Texas.
- Represent lenders in foreclosures on commercial mortgages in New York.
- Obtained a \$31 million judgment against a guarantor of a commercial mortgage.
- Obtained dismissal of claims against a private school seeking in excess of \$2 million in damages, which dismissal was affirmed by the Appellate Division, which also denied the plaintiff's motion to reargue and for leave to appeal to the Court of Appeals.
- Obtained dismissal of fraudulent inducement and promissory estoppel claims against a private school brought by parents of several former students concerning changes to staff and curriculum during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recognitions

Recognized or listed in the following:

- *ALM/Law.com*
- *Chambers High Net Worth*
 - New York: Private Wealth Law, 2020
 - New York: Private Wealth Disputes, 2020-2024
- *Citywealth*

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"Bonnie is a terrific litigator. She is a very talented lawyer who is a go-to for contentious issues." "She is a formidable litigator who is terrific to work with. She is very polished and straightforward."

***Chambers High Net Worth 2022
(New York, Private Wealth
Disputes) survey response***

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- Diversity/Gender Positive Role Model of the Year, 2022
- Magic Circle Awards: Woman of the Year (Gold), 2023
- Top 100 International Private Client Litigation Lawyers, 2022–2023
- Top 100 Trust Litigators and Polymaths, 2020
- *Citywealth* Powerwomen Awards
 - Top 100 International Powerwomen, 2024
 - Top 10 Powerwomen Trust Litigators, 2020
- Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP Pro Bono Service Award
 - 2013
- Lexology Index
 - Private Client, 2024
- Private Client Global Elite Directory
 - Rising Leaders, 2022–2023
- *Super Lawyers*
 - New York, 2024
- *Super Lawyers Rising Stars*
 - New York, 2014–2015
- Thomson Reuters
 - Stand-out Lawyer, 2024–2025

News

- Katten Attorneys Recognized as Stand-Out Lawyers by *Thomson Reuters* (March 20, 2025)
- Katten Attorneys Named to 2024 New York Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Lists (October 29, 2024)
- Katten Named Leader in *Chambers High Net Worth 2024* Guide (July 18, 2024)
- Ronni Davidowitz and Bonnie Chmil Selected for 2024 *Citywealth's* Top 100 International Powerwomen List (April 10, 2024)
- Katten Awarded Top Distinctions in *Chambers High Net Worth 2023* Guide (July 20, 2023)
- Katten Private Wealth Practice Honored as International Law Firm of the Year (May 22, 2023)

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- *Citywealth* Names Joshua Rubenstein and Bonnie Chmil on 'Top 100 International Private Client Litigation Lawyers' List (April 3, 2023)
- Four Private Wealth Partners Features in the 2023 Private Client Global Elite Directory (December 28, 2022)
- Katten Attorneys Score High in *Chambers High Net Worth 2022* Guide (July 14, 2022)
- Katten Private Wealth Practice Receives Two Law Firm of the Year Awards (May 19, 2022)
- *Citywealth* Recognizes Katten Partners on 'Top 100 International Private Client Litigation Lawyers' List (April 29, 2022)
- Katten Attorneys Selected for *Chambers High Net Worth 2021* Guide (July 22, 2021)
- Katten Private Wealth Attorneys Listed in Global Elite Directory 2021 (February 2, 2021)
- A Dozen Katten Partners Recognized in *Chambers High Net Worth* Guide (July 9, 2020)
- *Citywealth* Names Three Katten Attorneys to List of Top 100 Trust Litigators (May 27, 2020)
- Twenty Katten Attorneys Recognized in 2015 New York Metro *Super Lawyers* List (September 16, 2015)
- Katten Names 19 New Partners (July 1, 2015)
- Eighteen Katten Attorneys Named to 2014 New York Metro *Super Lawyers* List (September 23, 2014)
- Katten Recognizes Eleven Attorneys with Pro Bono Service Awards (July 25, 2013)

Publications

- 2024 Year-End Estate Planning Advisory (November 26, 2024)
- 2023 Year-End Estate Planning Advisory (November 20, 2023)
- 2022 Year-End Estate Planning Advisory (November 17, 2022)
- Tackling '*In Terrorem*' Clauses in Trusts and Wills (September 11, 2020)
- Looking Beyond the COVID-19 Crisis (March 23, 2020)
- 2019 Year-End Private Wealth Advisory (November 25, 2019)
- Katten Team Publishes 2018 Year-End Estate Planning Series (December 4–7, 2018)

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- 2018 Year-End Estate Planning Advisory (November 19, 2018)
- Getting Out of Federal Court (December 18, 2017)
- 2nd Circ. Guarantees 'Absolute And Unconditional' Guarantees (July 13, 2016)
- [*Corporate & Financial Weekly Digest*](#) (Weekly) | [*Author*](#)

Presentations and Events

- 2024 Private Wealth and Fiduciary Seminar New York (September 24, 2024)
- Mitigating Fiduciary Risk (July 2018) | *Speaker*
- Mitigating Fiduciary Risk (June 2017) | *Presenter*
- Mitigating Fiduciary Risk (September 29, 2016) | *Presenter*