

# Elizabeth Hermann Smith

## Partner

Chicago Office

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### Practices

FOCUS: Commercial Finance  
Restaurant and Franchise Finance

### Industries

Finance and Financial Markets  
Health Care

### Education

JD, DePaul University College of Law,  
*summa cum laude, Order of the Coif*

MA, Columbia University

BA, Yale University

### Bar Admissions

Illinois

### Community Involvements

The Chicago Bar Association, Young  
Lawyers Section Alternative Dispute  
Resolution Committee Co-Chair

Elizabeth Smith counsels lenders pursuing and providing financing in all areas of leveraged finance. She works to create a smooth, efficient process that gets her clients to closing, while feeling good about the negotiated terms of the deal.

### Smooth, successful deals for client growth

Elizabeth represents administrative agents, lead arrangers and lenders primarily in syndicated senior secured cash flow transactions, as well as representing mezzanine investors and borrowers in leveraged buyouts, dividend recapitalizations, add-on acquisition financings, workouts and other credit transactions. As a member of the Katten team named one of *Franchise Times'* Dealmakers of the Year in 2018, Elizabeth has significant experience with franchisor, franchisee and company-owned restaurant and retail lending in both the sponsor and nonsponsor context, as well as experience in health care financing and across a number of other industries.

Elizabeth has been with Katten for her entire career and has become an integral member of the firm and the Commercial Finance practice, always ready and willing to counsel associates and clients. She is on the Steering Committee of the firm's Women's Leadership Forum (WLF) and is a member of the WLF's National Mentoring Panel. In 2018, Elizabeth received Katten's Pro Bono Service Award for her involvement in a number of the firm's pro bono efforts including, among others, the Katten Legal Clinic, the Lawyers in the Classroom program and representation of various nonprofits in a number of matters. In addition to firm pro bono, she is a long-time member of the Associate Board of One Tail at a Time, a local Chicago dog rescue.

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*Partner*

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## Recognitions

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- *Franchise Times*
  - Dealmakers of the Year, 2018

## News

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- Katten Announces Partner Promotions (August 1, 2018)
- Katten Pro Bono Efforts Help Save Lives, Rebuild Communities in War Zones (July 9, 2018)
- Katten Legal Clinic at Jose de Diego Community Academy Profiled by *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin* (July 21, 2014)

## Presentations and Events

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- Trends in Leveraged Finance for the Restaurant and Franchise Market: Tackling COVID and the Road Ahead (June 23, 2020)