

Wendy E. Cohen

Managing Partner (New York) and Co-Chair, Investment Management and Funds

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Practices

FOCUS: Financial Markets and Funds
Broker-Dealer Regulation
Corporate
Cryptoassets and Blockchain Technology
Entrepreneurial Ventures
Environmental, Social and Governance
ESG and Sustainable Investing
Futures and Derivatives
Investment Management and Funds
Quantitative and Algorithmic Trading
Regulated Funds

Industries

Finance and Financial Markets
Private Client Services

Education

JD, New York University School of Law
BA, University of Pennsylvania, *magna cum laude*

Bar Admissions

New York
Connecticut

Community Involvements

American Bar Association
Managed Funds Association
New York City Bar Association
100 Women in Finance, co-chair Legal Peer Advisory Group
Hedge Funds Care

Wendy Cohen, managing partner of Katten's New York office and co-chair of the Investment Management and Funds group, understands the business realities and challenges of the competitive world of asset management. For three decades, asset managers have turned to her to navigate the minefield of regulation that governs the structuring and operation of private investment funds. From the largest and most established hedge funds to innovative players with alternative strategies, clients rely on Wendy to handle all legal issues that touch their businesses.

Customizing practical plans

Wendy knows that asset managers don't fit a single mold. She understands each of her client's businesses, and uses that understanding to suggest practical strategies that are commercial while minimizing the risk of regulatory violations. Those clients have rewarded her with their loyalty. A founder of an investment management firm noted, "We have worked with Wendy on all aspects of fund creation and financial market representation for over 30 years. She is truly exceptional. While expert in the law and with deep business knowledge, it is her personal representation and advocacy for her clients that sets her above and apart." In an industry where personal connections matter, Wendy forges fast and long-standing relationships with clients large and small.

Wendy has amassed extensive knowledge on the laws most relevant to her client base of private investment funds whether the investment portfolio includes securities, futures or cryptocurrencies. She has particular experience on issues relating to the formation and ongoing operation of fund management, including domestic and offshore offering requirements, futures regulation, investment adviser rules and broker-dealer regulation. She also stays in front of new and changing legal issues that touch other aspects of fund operations — among them cryptocurrencies, cybersecurity rules, US

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"I have been working with Katten for years. They are by far the best firm. I used to spread my work, but their expertise is so strong across the board and they collaborate so well that I keep it all with them. Wendy Cohen is the partner I work with on everything, and she cares as much about protecting our interests as we do!"

- U.S. News – Best Lawyers® 2023 "Best Law Firms"

(Private Funds / Hedge Funds Law) survey response

and EU privacy regulations and ERISA-related matters.

What separates Wendy, however, is her ability to account for her clients' unique needs in a manner that reflects an understanding of their businesses, while minimizing regulatory risk. When an investment manager client wanted to adopt a highly complex compensation structure for its multiple families of funds, for instance, she was able to distill the concepts and craft easily understandable disclosures that would enhance the client's marketing efforts. Sometimes she simply helps clients navigate regulatory obstacles, as she has done for clients that want to manage funds for their employees' IRAs. She helps guide them through the complex web of US Department of Labor rules, including receiving an exemption for one client that could not fit within established protocols.

Wendy's wide-ranging practice frequently touches on cutting-edge issues. She launched one of the earliest investment funds focused on cryptocurrencies, a rapidly changing area fraught with risk. She created comprehensive offering documents that allowed the manager to enter this dynamic new investment space with materials that were compliant with applicable regulation.

Whether it is in law or finance, Wendy is passionate about empowering women. She is active in Katten's Women's Leadership Forum, which supports the strategic retention and advancement of women attorneys at the firm through mentoring and professional development programs. She also has a long-standing relationship with 100 Women in Finance as an Angel Member. Wendy routinely hosts roundtable programs and other events in Katten's New York office on behalf of the 100WF, bringing exceptional speakers from the finance world and facilitating networking opportunities.

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Recognitions

Recognized or listed in the following:

- *Best Lawyers in America*
 - Private Funds / Hedge Funds Law, 2024
- *Chambers Global*
 - Investment Funds: Hedge Funds
 - USA, 2024
- *Chambers USA*
 - Hedge Funds, 2023
- *Crain's New York Business*
 - Notable Women in Law, 2021
- *HFM US Services Awards*
 - Best Onshore Law Firm, 2022
 - Best Onshore Law Firm – Start Ups, 2020
- *The Legal 500 United States*
 - Recommended Attorney, 2016–2023

News

- *Chambers Global* Publishes Financial Markets and Funds Team Overview on US Investment Funds (February 28, 2024)
- Katten Ranked as Leader in *Chambers Global Guide* 2024 (February 15, 2024)
- 100 Women in Finance Features Wendy Cohen in Its Member Highlight (February 1, 2024)
- Wendy Cohen Profiled in *Law.com's* 'How I Made Office Managing Partner' Series (January 16, 2024)
- Financial Markets and Funds Team Authors *Chambers* Overview on Alternative Funds (November 27, 2023)