

Leslie D. Minier

Partner

Chicago Office

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Practices

FOCUS: Mergers and Acquisitions

Corporate

Environmental, Social and Governance

ESG Risk and Investigations

Private Equity

Industries

Manufacturing and Industrials Private Equity

Education

JD, Northwestern University School of Law

MBA, Northwestern University

MSEE, Georgia Institute of Technology

BSEE, Tuskegee University

Bar Admissions

Illinois

Community Involvements

American Bar Association, Business Law Section

Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago, Inc.

Chicago Committee on Minorities in Large Law Firms, Board Member, 2006–2015

Chicago United, Leaders Council

Economic Club of Chicago, Former Member

Illinois State Bar Association

Joffrey Ballet, Board Member, 2006–2016

National Bar Association

Make-A-Wish Foundation of Illinois, Board Member, 2007–2009

National Black MBA Association, Inc.

The Chicago Bar Association, Alliance for Women, Former Executive Board Member and Co-Chair

Leslie Minier, Katten's chief diversity partner, helps clients in a variety of industries with mergers and acquisitions, private equity and general corporate matters. She advises both public and private companies on structuring, negotiating and documenting mergers, acquisitions and dispositions of private and public corporations. She also advises private equity funds investing in, engaging in leveraged buyouts of, and selling portfolio companies.

A nationally recognized leader in law firm diversity and inclusion efforts

As Katten's chief diversity partner and founder of its diversity committee, Leslie has led the firm to wide recognition throughout the legal industry for its diversity and inclusion efforts. At the local, state and national level, Leslie has also been recognized as leader in the legal industry by publications such as *Crain's Chicago Business* and *Savoy Professional*. Prior to attending law school, Leslie worked as a manager in the Data Communication/Technical Planning & Development Group for BellSouth Enterprises.

Recognitions

Recognized or listed in the following:

- *Citywealth*
 - Powerwomen Awards, Champion of the Year (Gold) – USA, 2023
 - Top 15 Leadership Dream Team USA, 2022

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National Association of Women Lawyers,
Board Member

- *Crain's Chicago Business*
 - Chicago's Notable Minority Lawyers, 2018
 - Notable Executives in HR and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, 2022
 - Notable Minorities in Accounting, Consulting & Law, 2019–2020
 - Notable Women in Law, 2020, 2022, 2024
 - Notable Black Leaders and Executives, 2022
- Lawyers of Color
 - Nation's Best, 2019
- Leadership Greater Chicago
 - Fellow, 2008
- Savoy Magazine
 - Most Influential Black Lawyers, 2015, 2018, 2022
 - Most Influential Executives in Diversity & Inclusion, 2023
 - Most Influential Women in Corporate America, 2019
- *Who's Who in Black Chicago*
 - 2007

News

- Leslie Minier, Kimberly Smith and Janet Hoffman Recognized by *Crain's* as Notable Women in Law (February 23, 2024)
- Katten Named Leader in LGBTQ+ Workplace Inclusion (December 13, 2023)
- Katten Recognized for Its Efforts to Advance Diversity in Law (November 29, 2023)
- Katten Receives Change Agent Award for Advancing Diversity and Inclusion (October 25, 2023)

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- Katten Again Recognized for Seeking Greater Diversity and Inclusion (October 13, 2023)
- Katten Receives Inaugural 'MCCA Approved Platinum Seal' for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (April 5, 2023)
- Katten Litigation and Real Estate Associates Named Leadership Council on Legal Diversity Pathfinders (March 21, 2023)
- Leslie Minier Named to *Savoy's* List of Most Influential Executives in Diversity & Inclusion (March 14, 2023)
- Katten ESG Risk & Investigations Co-Chair Johnjerica Hodge Selected as a Leadership Council on Legal Diversity Fellow (March 14, 2023)
- *Citywealth* Honors Katten, Partners and Firm DEI Initiatives During 2023 Powerwomen Awards (March 8, 2023)
- *The American Lawyer*, *Law360*, *Savoy* Feature India Williams and Katten's New ESG Practice (February 17, 2023)
- Katten Launches New Practice Focused on ESG Risk and Investigations (February 14, 2023)
- Katten Designated Mansfield Rule 5.0 Certified Plus Law Firm (November 17, 2022)
- Katten Recognized by Leadership Council on Legal Diversity as 2022 Top Performer and Compass Award Winner (October 27, 2022)
- *Crain's* Names Leslie Minier to 2022 Class of Notable Black Leaders and Executives (October 25, 2022)
- *Citywealth* Picks Katten as a Top 15 Diversity Leadership Dream Team (October 13, 2022)
- *Crain's* Recognizes Leslie Minier, Kimberly Smith and Jennifer Wolfe as Notable Women in Law (September 6, 2022)
- Katten Recommits to Increasing Diversity in Leadership Ranks (August 19, 2022)
- *Crain's* Names Leslie Minier a Notable Executive in HR and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (August 11, 2022)

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- Katten Financial Litigator Accepted Into Career Development Program to Empower Diverse Attorneys (April 18, 2022)
- Katten's David Crichlow and Leslie Minier Named Among Savoy's Most Influential Black Lawyers (February 15, 2022)
- Katten Earns Top Score in Human Rights Campaign Foundation's Assessment of LGBTQ+ Workplace Equality (January 27, 2022)
- Katten Praised as a "Top Performer" by Leadership Council on Legal Diversity (November 1, 2021)
- Katten Achieves Mansfield Certification Plus Status (September 14, 2021)
- Katten Reaffirms Commitment to Diversity in Legal Workforce With Mansfield Rule 5.0 (June 29, 2021)
- Katten Corporate and Real Estate Associates Selected for Legal Diversity Leadership Program (March 16, 2021)
- Katten's Trisha Sircar Appointed to Innovative Legal Diversity Fellows Program (March 3, 2021)
- Katten Named a Best Place to Work for LGBTQ Equality by the Human Rights Campaign (January 28, 2021)
- Katten Renews Mansfield Rule Participation to Increase Diversity in Law Firm Leadership (September 15, 2020)
- Three Katten Attorneys Named to *Crain's* 2020 Notable Women in Law (September 9, 2020)
- Katten Recognized for its Diversity and Inclusion Efforts (August 18, 2020)
- Katten Advises Exelon Foundation in Funding Startups Tackling Climate Change (July 29, 2020)
- Katten Recognized Among Top Companies for Executive Women (March 3, 2020)
- Katten Finance Attorneys Chosen for Diverse Talent Development Program (February 24, 2020)
- Katten Corporate Partner Tapped for Diversity Program (February 13, 2020)

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- Katten Earns Top Marks for LGBTQ Workplace Equality (January 21, 2020)
- Katten Recognized for Participation in Diversity Programs (November 5, 2019)
- Katten Receives Change Agent Diversity Award (October 3, 2019)
- Katten Recognized for Making Strides Towards More Diversity and Inclusion (September 4, 2019)
- Katten Applauded for Fostering an Inclusive Workplace (August 5, 2019)
- Savoy Honors Katten's Chief Diversity Partner on List of "Most Influential Women in Corporate America" (July 18, 2019)
- Leslie Minier Named to Lawyers of Color's Inaugural Nation's Best List (June 25, 2019)
- Katten Offers Diversity Internship in Environmental Law (June 10, 2019)
- Katten Lawyers Tapped to Join Career-Building Program for Diverse Attorneys (May 21, 2019)
- Katten Structured Finance and Securitization Partner Selected for Diversity Leadership Program (April 16, 2019)
- Katten Named Among Best Places to Work for LGBTQ Equality (March 28, 2019)
- Katten Named Among Top Companies for Executive Women (March 5, 2019)
- Katten Hosts Firmwide Diversity Leadership Summit (December 3, 2018)
- Leslie Minier Named to Chicago's Notable Minority Lawyers List by *Crain's Chicago Business* (November 19, 2018)
- Katten Honored for Participation in Diversity Programs (November 8, 2018)
- Katten Attorneys Prepare Chicago High School Students for Career Success (November 8, 2018)
- Katten Called "Trailblazing" for Its Diversity Efforts (August 20, 2018)

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- Katten Applauded for Outstanding Diversity and Inclusion Efforts (July 24, 2018)
- Katten Women Partners Honored for Their Achievements (June 27, 2018)
- Katten Targets Diverse Law School Students for Internships and Scholarships (June 5, 2018)
- Yale Law School Group Calls Katten "Female Friendly" (April 19, 2018)
- Two Katten Associates Selected for Career Development Program (April 5, 2018)
- Katten Partner Chosen for Diversity Leadership Program (March 9, 2018)
- Katten Designated Among the "Best Places to Work for LGBT Equality" by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation (November 9, 2017)
- Katten Selected Top Illinois Law Firm for LGBT Inclusiveness and Equality (July 31, 2017)
- Katten Attorneys Manny Mevs and Tenley Mochizuki Named Pathfinders for the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity (March 30, 2017)
- Katten Named Top Illinois Law Firm for LGBT Inclusiveness and Equality (July 26, 2016)
- Katten Earns Perfect Score on Human Rights Campaign's LGBT Corporate Equality Index 2016 (November 24, 2015)
- Katten Partner and Chief Diversity Officer Leslie D. Minier Named Among the 2015 Most Influential Black Lawyers (March 10, 2015)
- Katten Hosts 2014 Women's Energy Summit Bringing Together Top Women Business Leaders to Discuss Critical Water and Energy Issues (September 9, 2014)
- Katten Partner and Chief Diversity Officer Leslie Minier Named "Working Mother of the Year" (October 24, 2013)
- Katten Named a 2012 Top Law Firm for Diversity by *MultiCultural Law* Magazine (June 13, 2012)
- Leslie Minier and Maribel Mata-Benedict Honored by Chicago United (March 16, 2012)

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- Katten Recognized Among Top Law Firms for Diversity by MultiCultural Law Magazine (May 9, 2011)
- Partner Leslie Minier Featured in *Savoy Professional* (Summer 2009)
- Katten Named Among Top 100 Law Firms for Diversity for Fifth Consecutive Year by MultiCultural Law Magazine (April 23, 2009)
- Katten Represents Independent Nominees to NRG Board (February 2, 2009)
- Partner Leslie Minier Quoted in *MultiCultural Law* on Opportunities for Diverse Attorneys (2008)
- Katten Awards 2008 Minority Scholarships to Angela Liu, Maxwell Li and Christopher Mendoza (May 13, 2008)
- Katten Named One of Top 100 Law Firms for Diversity for Fourth Consecutive Year by MultiCultural Law Magazine (March 10, 2008)
- Chicago Committee on Minorities in Large Law Firms to Call Katten Home Through 2010 (January 16, 2008)
- Chief Diversity Partner Leslie Minier Named to *Who's Who in Black Chicago* (October 23, 2007)
- Leslie Minier's Appointment to Chief Diversity Partner Featured in *Diversity & the Bar* (September/October 2007)
- Katten's Leslie D. Minier Selected as 2008 Leadership Greater Chicago Fellow (August 20, 2007)
- Katten Enhances Law Firm Diversity Initiatives with Launch of Leadership Institute for Women of Color (July 20, 2007)
- Chief Diversity Partner Leslie Minier Profiled in *MultiCultural Law* Magazine on Law Firm Diversity (July 13, 2007)
- Katten National Managing Partner Serves on ABA Panel on Women of Color in the Legal Profession (June 29, 2007)
- Katten Names Leslie D. Minier as Firm's First Chief Diversity Partner (May 16, 2007)

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- Katten Awards 2006 Minority Scholarships to Chuoh Ngeh and Ferillia Roberson (January 22, 2007)

Publications

- Katten *DEI Annual Report*: Celebrating the Differences That Make Us Stronger (April 17, 2023)
- Whether In House or at a Large Firm, Keys to Success for Women of Color Remain the Same (December 2008)
- Follow the Leader (September - November 2008)
- A Progressive Approach to Law Firm Diversity Issues (November 2007)

Presentations and Events

- Broadening the Pipeline: How to Increase Diversity in the Financial Services Legal Industry (February 23, 2021) | *Panelist*
- What is Diversity Without Inclusion? (February 4, 2020) | *Panelist*
- Women in Law (December 11, 2018) | *Panelist*
- Center for Women in Law's 2016 Biennial Award Luncheon (April 15, 2016) | *Sponsor*
- 2011 ACT International Conference (August 27–31, 2011) | *Panelist* | *Telework and Alternative Work Arrangements Solve Workplace Challenges*
- 11th Annual Creating Pathways to Diversity Conference and Northeast Region Diversity Dinner (November 10, 2010) | *Presenter* | *101: Building & Strengthening Strategic Diversity Partnerships*
- Ninth Annual Creating Pathways to Diversity Conference (November 19, 2008) | *Panelist* | *Diversity and Inclusion in the AmLaw 200 and the Vault/MCCA Guide*

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- The Chicago Bar Association's Alliance for Women Annual Awards Luncheon (May 22, 2008) | *Presenter*
- 5th Annual Chief Diversity Officers Forum (April 2–3, 2008) | *Panelist*
- Women of Color in Law Firms: The Need for Change & Strategies for Success (December 11, 2007) | *Presenter*
- 8th Annual Creating Pathways to Diversity Conference (November 8–9, 2007) | *Panelist* | *Maximizing Minority Lawyers in Majority-Owned Firms: Garnering Visibility for Your Firm's Diverse Attorneys*