

Michaela C. Holcombe

Partner

Litigation

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Michaela Holcombe anchors her litigation practice in high-stakes civil litigation and multifaceted dispute resolution. She counsels a diverse portfolio of clients in sophisticated commercial and financial markets disputes spanning complex contractual, manufacturing, real estate, financial services, and employment matters.

Delivering results in high-stakes litigation

Michaela's experience ranges from state and federal courts to domestic and international arbitration, where she has successfully defended and prosecuted high-stakes claims for a diverse group of clients, including manufacturers, technology companies, and broker-dealers.

Clients appreciate Michaela's deep commitment to understanding their business objectives and tailoring her approach to achieve the best possible outcome — whether that means prevailing at trial, securing a favorable settlement, or obtaining a dismissal in arbitration. She is known for her thorough preparation and strategic thinking, which have contributed to significant victories, including a defense verdict in a federal jury trial involving over $100 million in alleged damages and the successful prosecution of breach of employment agreement claims in state court.

While in law school, Michaela was a merit scholarship recipient and served on the *North Carolina Law Review*.

Representative Experience

- Defended manufacturer against fraud and breach of contract claims in federal court case seeking over $100 million in damages and secured a finding of no liability after a multi-week jury trial.
- Defended international manufacturer in multiple federal court cases involving employment claims.
- Defended electronic broker-dealer against arbitration claims seeking tens of millions in damages and secured dismissal in FINRA arbitration.

Practices

- Commercial Litigation
- Financial Markets Litigation and Enforcement
- Litigation

Education

- JD, The University of North Carolina School of Law, *with high honors*
- BA, The University of North Carolina at Asheville

Bar Admissions

- North Carolina

Court Admissions

- US District Court, Western District of North Carolina
- US District Court, Middle District of North Carolina
- US District Court, Eastern District of North Carolina

- Represented technology manufacturer on successful breach of contract claims in domestic arbitration.
- Defended educational software company against allegations of fraud and breach of contract in federal court.
- Prosecuted successful breach of employment agreement and non-solicitation claims against former senior employee of technology company in state court jury trial.

Recognitions

Recognized or listed in the following:

- *Best Lawyers in America*
  - Ones to Watch
    - Commercial Litigation, 2021–2027

News

- Katten Attorneys Recognized in 2027 *Best Lawyers* Guide (August 20, 2026)
- Katten Announces New Partner Class of 2025 (August 26, 2025)
- Katten's Rising Leaders Named to 2026 *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch*® List (August 21, 2025)
- Katten Attorneys Recognized as *Best Lawyers*® and *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch*® Award Recipients (August 15, 2024)
- Katten Attorneys Distinguished by *Best Lawyers*® (August 17, 2023)
- Katten Attorneys Recognized by *Best Lawyers*® (August 18, 2022)
- Katten Attorneys Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® (August 19, 2021)
- Katten Attorneys Distinguished as Top Legal Talent in the 2021 *Best Lawyers in America* and *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch* Lists (August 20, 2020)
- Katten Wins Significant Victory in "Bet the Business" Fraud and Breach of Contract Suit (March 2018)