



David A. Crichlow

Partner and Co-Chair, Litigation Department

Litigation

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David Crichlow, co-chair of the Litigation Department, represents large companies in some of their most important litigation. He serves as lead trial counsel on high-stakes commercial, class action and bankruptcy litigation, with experience that includes nine- and ten-figure disputes. David has represented clients in multibillion-dollar RMBS consolidated litigation, fraudulent inducement claims with respect to asset purchase agreements for significant commercial businesses, and litigation in or related to the bankruptcies of the Caesars Entertainment Operation Company, Solutia, Enron and Refco.

Commercial, class action and bankruptcy disputes

Clients that turn to David include some of the largest banks in the United States and Europe, major oil and industrial gas companies, private equity firms and large pension funds. His wide-ranging experience includes representing an indenture trustee in its \$6 billion claim against the gaming company Caesars pursuant to a parent guarantee in the applicable indenture, the equity committee in the Solutia bankruptcy in its \$2 billion claim against a former parent, and a Cayman Island hedge fund against a \$324 million preference action in the Refco bankruptcy.

David's class action defense practice includes his work defending an indenture trustee against a "bet-the-company" class action claim relating to a bond offering alleged to be part of a Ponzi scheme, and defending a US auto financing company against a nationwide class bringing consumer claims under various motor vehicle leasing consumer protection statutes. In over 30 years of practice, he has gained particular experience with clients in the financial services and life sciences industries.

Representative Experience

- Lead trial counsel defending a Cayman Island hedge fund against a \$324 million preference action brought by the creditors' committee in the Refco bankruptcy. Obtained successful resolution prior to summary judgment hearing.

Practices

- Antitrust and Competition
- Antitrust and Competition Litigation
- Appeals and Critical Motions
- Commercial Litigation
- Financial Markets and Funds
- Financial Markets Litigation and Enforcement
- Litigation
- Mergers and Acquisitions Litigation

Industries

- Energy
- Finance and Financial Markets
- Pharmaceutical and Life Sciences

Education

- JD, University of Pennsylvania Law School
- BA, Hofstra University

Bar Admissions

- New York

Court Admissions

- US Supreme Court
- US Court of Federal Claims
- US District Court, Eastern District of New York
- US District Court, Northern District of New York
- US District Court, Southern District of New York

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- Lead trial counsel for one of the country's largest oil companies in several adversary proceedings brought against the Enron Corporation, or its affiliates, in the Enron bankruptcy, with respect to disputes arising from a pipeline joint venture between the company's affiliates and Enron's affiliates.
- Lead trial counsel representing financial institution, as indenture trustee, in its \$6.3 billion claim on behalf of first-lien noteholders for payment in full on certain first-lien notes issued by gaming company Caesars Entertainment Operating Company (CEOC), in a suit before the US District Court for the Southern District of New York against CEOC's parent, Caesars Entertainment Corporation (CEC), for alleged breach of its parent guarantee under the applicable indenture and alleged violations of the Trust Indenture Act. The lawsuit resulted in a favorable settlement on the eve of summary judgment arguments, paving the way to a global settlement in CEOC's bankruptcy to which CEC contributed, resulting in the first-lien noteholders receiving payment in full on their notes with interest.
- Lead trial counsel for equity committee of insolvent multinational manufacturer of high-performance chemical-based materials for industrial and consumer use in its \$2 billion lawsuit against former parent, asserting that former parent undercapitalized company at spin-off, fraudulently transferred certain liabilities and misrepresented the scope of future environmental liabilities in public documents related to the spin-off. Obtained global settlement under bankruptcy plan and recovery for pre-petition equity holders.*
- Lead trial counsel defending California loan originator against claims by Residential Funding Company, LLC (the successor-in-interest to ResCap) for alleged breach of warranty and indemnification arising from ResCap's purchase, securitization and sale of certain residential mortgage-backed securities. The aggregate damage claims in the consolidated actions in which the mortgage securities-related claims are proceeding involve more than \$7 billion in controversy.
- Lead trial counsel defending one of the country's largest automobile finance companies in a class action suit alleging violations of New York's Motor Vehicle Retail Leasing Act. Obtained voluntary dismissal of nationwide class allegations, and resolved state class claims favorably to client after extensive commercial mediation.
- Lead trial counsel defending a Boise, Idaho company in a "bet-the-company" case against a putative class action related to the company's role as indenture trustee to a \$40 million bond issuance, indenture trustee's alleged breach of fiduciary duties, and

Community Involvements

- Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Board of Trustees
- The Legal Aid Society, Board of Advisors

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"Partner David Crichlow is one of the finest litigators that I've had the pleasure to work with over the years. His legal expertise coupled with his legal acumen make him an invaluable asset to our business."

**U.S. News – Best Lawyers® 2022
"Best Law Firms"
(Commercial Litigation) survey
response**

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contractual obligations, after issuer of notes declared bankruptcy and was alleged to have been engaged in a massive Ponzi Scheme. Obtained dismissal of all claims prior to class certification and without class discovery.

- Lead trial counsel in multiparty plaintiff actions brought by certain upstream oil producers against several of the nation's largest oil companies as downstream purchasers, for claims worth hundreds of millions of dollars alleging unjust enrichment, constructive trust and other equitable remedies.
- Represent clients with claims against the Reserve Fund for redemption of investments after the fund historically "broke the buck" during the financial crisis in the fall of 2008.
- Represented trustee for certificate holders under pooling and servicing agreements in connection with RMBS litigation and claims brought by monoline insurer against trustee for alleged breaches of contract and various other purported duties. Obtained dismissal of all claims.
- Represent large domestic public utility company in petition before US Supreme Court for a writ of *certiorari* to review lower court's decision on constitutionality of a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ruling.

*Experience prior to Katten

Recognitions

Recognized or listed in the following:

- *Best Lawyers in America*
 - Commercial Litigation, 2023–2025
- *Chambers USA*
 - Litigation: General Commercial, 2024–2025
- *Crain's New York Business*
 - Notable Litigators and Trial Attorneys, 2025
 - Notable Black Leaders, 2024
 - Notable Black Leaders and Executives, 2021–2022
 - Notable Diverse Leaders in Law, 2022
- Hofstra University
 - Alumni Achievement Award, 2012
- International Law Office

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- Client Choice Award
 - Litigation, 2014
- Metropolitan Black Bar Association
 - Private Practitioner of the Year, 2011
- *National Law Journal*
 - Litigation Trailblazer, 2020
- *New York Law Journal*
 - Distinguished Leader, 2020
- Savoy Magazine
 - Most Influential Black Lawyers, 2022
- *Super Lawyers*
 - New York, 2006, 2014–2024
- *The Legal 500 United States*
 - Recommended Attorney, 2014, 2017, 2020–2025
- Turnaround Atlas Awards
 - Gaming & Hospitality Turnaround of the Year, 2012
 - Basic Resources Category, 2011

News

- Katten Receives High Marks in the Legal 500 US 2025 Guide (June 11, 2025)
- *Chambers USA* 2025 Ranks Katten as Leading Law Firm (June 5, 2025)
- Katten Attorneys Named Among *Crain's New York Business* 2025 Notable Litigators & Trial Attorneys (April 1, 2025)
- Katten Attorneys Named to 2024 New York Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Lists (October 29, 2024)
- David Crichlow Honored as a *Crain's New York Business* Notable Black Leader (October 22, 2024)
- Katten Attorneys Recognized as *Best Lawyers®* and *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch®* Award Recipients (August 15, 2024)
- Katten Highly Ranked in Legal 500 United States 2024 (June 12, 2024)

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- Katten Receives High Marks in *Chambers USA* Guide 2024 (June 6, 2024)
- Katten Attorneys Named to 2023 New York Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Lists (September 29, 2023)
- Katten Attorneys Distinguished by *Best Lawyers®* (August 17, 2023)
- Insolvency and Restructuring Team Recognized With Multiple International M&A Awards (August 7, 2023)
- Katten Lauded in The Legal 500 United States 2023 (June 9, 2023)
- Insolvency and Restructuring Team Honored With Multiple *M&A Advisor* Awards (March 16, 2023)
- Commercial Lit Team Draws Coverage From *Reuters*, *American Lawyer*, *Law360* and More (January 11, 2023)
- Katten Lands Talented Litigation Team in New York (January 10, 2023)
- Katten Expands Commercial Litigation Group With Christopher Beatty (November 14, 2022)
- Katten Attorneys Earn 2022 New York Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Distinctions (September 29, 2022)
- Katten Attorneys Recognized by *Best Lawyers®* (August 18, 2022)
- *Crain's New York Business* Names David Crichlow to Its 2022 Notable Diverse Leaders in Law List (July 25, 2022)
- Katten Awarded Top Ranking in Structured Finance: Securitization in The Legal 500 United States 2022 (June 8, 2022)
- Katten's David Crichlow and Leslie Minier Named Among *Savoy's* Most Influential Black Lawyers (February 15, 2022)
- Coronavirus (COVID-19) Resource Center (November 10, 2021)
- Katten Adds Seasoned Litigator as Partner in Dallas (October 14, 2021)
- Katten Attorneys Named 2021 New York Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Honorees (September 30, 2021)
- Katten Receives High Marks in Derivatives, M&A and Securitization in The Legal 500 United States 2021 Guide (June 10, 2021)
- David Crichlow Named to *Crain's New York Business* Notable Black Leaders and Executives List (April 1, 2021)
- David Crichlow Honored as a 'Distinguished Leader' by the *New York Law Journal* (November 2, 2020)

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- Katten Attorneys Chosen for New York Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists (October 28, 2020)
- *New York Law Journal* Selects David Crichlow and Kenneth Lore as 2020 Distinguished Leaders (July 1, 2020)
- Katten Attorneys Named to 2018 New York *Super Lawyers*, Rising Stars Lists (September 13, 2018)
- Katten Partner Tapped for American Bar Association Leadership Role (July 12, 2018)
- Katten Attorneys Acknowledged in 2017 New York Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Lists (September 20, 2017)
- Katten Distinguished by *The Legal 500 United States* 2017 (May 31, 2017)
- Eighteen Katten Attorneys Distinguished in 2016 New York Metro *Super Lawyers* List (September 21, 2016)
- Twenty Katten Attorneys Recognized in 2015 New York Metro *Super Lawyers* List (September 16, 2015)
- Eighteen Katten Attorneys Named to 2014 New York Metro *Super Lawyers* List (September 23, 2014)
- Eight Katten Practices and Forty-Two Attorneys Recognized by *The Legal 500 United States* 2014 (July 3, 2014)
- Katten's New York Office and Attorneys David Crichlow and Guy Dempsey Receive 2014 Client Choice Awards for Outstanding Client Service (April 14, 2014)
- Katten Brings on Top New York Litigator David A. Crichlow (July 13, 2012)

Publications

- Responding to a Complaint (February, 2022)
- Is the Coronavirus Pandemic a Material Adverse Event? It Depends. (April 17, 2020)
- *In re Tribune Co.*: Allowance of Post-Petition Indenture Trustees Fees as Unsecured Claim (January 10, 2019)

Presentations and Events

- Katten 2023 Diversity Summit (June 12–14, 2023) | *Moderator / Client Perspective: How to Win Our Business and Leverage DEI*

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- Elevating Partners of Color Summit (October 13, 2022) | *Panelist / Bankruptcy*
- Pretrial Practice 2021 (April 21, 2021) | *Panelist / Responding to a Complaint*
- Precision Advocacy: Reinventing Motion Practice to Win (April 27, 2017) | *Presenter / Precision Advocacy: Reinventing Motion Practice to Win*
- Financial Services Litigation Symposium (October 16, 2014) | *Presenter*
- Pretrial Practice 2013 (May 20, 2013) | *Speaker / Responding to a Complaint*