Carrie M. Stickel

Partner

Litigation

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Carrie Stickel concentrates her practice on litigation and enforcement matters relating to the financial services industry and the federal securities laws.

Solving complex disputes for financial services firms and publicly traded companies

Carrie represents individuals and companies in regulatory and enforcement matters and in federal and state court litigation. She has considerable experience with the federal securities laws, regulatory investigations, and internal investigations. Carrie frequently defends enforcement proceedings before the Securities Exchange Commission (SEC), Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), and self-regulatory bodies, including the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE). Carrie also defends broker-dealers and other financial services companies in disputes with customers and investors, including in Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) arbitration.

In addition, Carrie has significant experience representing publicly traded companies and their executives and directors in securities fraud and derivative litigation. Clients also turn to Carrie to address a variety of other complex commercial disputes, including fiduciary, breach of contract, and real estate litigation. When clients anticipate litigation, Carrie provides practical strategies to minimize or eliminate litigation risk, or to preserve rights or potential claims.

Representative Experience

- Successfully defended broker-dealer in FINRA arbitration where the claimant asserted unsuitable investment recommendations, among other claims, relating to an alleged options and short trading strategy. The claimant's short positions eclipsed $3 billion in valuation and the claimant sought more than $280 million in damages at the hearing. After 20 hearing days, the panel awarded our client a complete victory on all claims.
- Defended former CEO of an international entertainment company in concurrent DOJ investigation, SEC investigation, securities class action, opt-out investor litigation, and derivative litigation arising out

Practices

- Financial Markets Litigation and Enforcement
- Litigation
- Monitorships
- Securities Enforcement Defense
- Securities Litigation

Education

- JD, Chicago-Kent College of Law, Illinois Institute of Technology, *magna cum laude, Order of the Coif*
- BS, Miami University, *cum laude*

Bar Admissions

- Illinois

of alleged securities fraud. Successfully advocated for the DOJ to close its investigation without charges and reached favorable settlements with the SEC, the class, opt-out investors, and derivative plaintiffs.

- Represented DOJ and SEC-appointed Foreign Corrupt Practices Act compliance monitor for a multinational generic pharmaceutical company. Assessed and reported on anti-bribery and anti-corruption controls at company affiliates around the world.
- Defended futures commission merchant (FCM) and broker-dealer in putative class action filed by customers in federal court alleging violations of the Commodity Exchange Act and various common law claims relating to unprecedented negative pricing of crude oil futures contracts. Won multiple motions to dismiss, ultimately securing a dismissal with prejudice.
- Defended multiple NYSE member firms in separate investigations conducted by NYSE into options trading, including alleged failure to comply with best execution and trade nullification rules, and negotiated favorable settlements for each client.
- Defended a large registered investment adviser (RIA) and fund manager in SEC investigation relating to its managed portfolios. The SEC concluded the investigation without recommending charges.
- Defended publicly traded internet-based shipping provider and its executives and directors in securities class action and multiple derivative lawsuits alleging securities fraud and various breaches of fiduciary duty, including allegedly improper insider trading. All cases were dismissed pursuant to a favorable global settlement.
- Conducted two internal investigations of a public utility company in response to whistleblower complaints alleging accounting misconduct.
- Represented closely-held manufacturing company in fiduciary and breach of contract litigation filed by shareholder, as well as in a related special litigation committee (SLC) investigation.

Recognitions

Recognized or listed in the following:

- *Chambers USA*
  - Litigation: General Commercial, 2026
- *Best Lawyers in America*
  - Ones to Watch

- Commercial Litigation, 2024–2026
- Financial Services Regulation Law, 2024–2026

News

- Katten Climbs in *Chambers USA* 2026 Rankings (June 4, 2026)
- 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 Names New Partners (July 26, 2022)
- Katten Honors Attorneys for Exceptional Pro Bono Service (June 27, 2017)

Publications

- Recent Cases Clarify When Risk Disclosures Trigger Liability (June 24, 2026)
- Bitnomial Exchange Sues SEC, Challenging Agency's Authority Over XRP Futures (October 11, 2024)
- What does it all meme? An exploration of meme stock litigation, regulatory scrutiny and defenses for broker-dealers (August 11, 2021)