



Nicole Lynn Kobrine

Partner

Litigation

Washington, DC Office | +1.202.625.3636

nicole.kobrine@katten.com

Nicole Kobrine has successfully climbed to the top of the often male-dominated areas of construction litigation and commercial real estate disputes. She has been trying those types of cases, as well as other complex commercial business disputes, for 30 years and has secured major victories in the courts of DC, Maryland and Virginia.

A proven force in resolving construction litigation

Well respected by judges, Nicole oftentimes is the only female attorney in the well of the courtroom, on the roof of a defectively constructed building, or at the negotiating table. Practicing throughout the Washington, DC metropolitan area and nationally, clients regard Nicole as "hyper intelligent, aggressive and an unstoppable advocate" (*Chambers USA* 2024). She has a track record of successfully representing real estate developers, landowners and investors, prominent shopping centers, and contractors in high-stakes disputes.

Out of the box and into the ring

Nicole offers an out-of-the-box approach to finding creative solutions that achieve her clients' goals as efficiently and effectively as possible. Part of what sets Nicole apart is her ability to identify legal "wedge issues" that can turn a weak hand into a strong one for her clients. She finds holes in the other side's argument and then flips the situation to go on offense. Her main focus is to obtain a business resolution, which in these types of disputes is often the best objective. She takes the time to understand the motives of the opposing side and then develops litigation strategies for her clients so they can decide how best to fight.

While she has won numerous high-profile, high-value commercial disputes for some of the nation's leading developers, property owners and investors, her focus remains on achieving the best outcome for her clients. In many cases, that means pursuing strategic resolutions that avoid litigation. Her ability to advise on both proactive and reactive approaches makes Nicole a highly valued asset in the real estate and construction industries.

Practices

- Commercial Litigation
- Litigation
- Real Estate Litigation

Industries

- Construction
- Data Centers

Education

- JD, The George Washington University Law School
- BA, Stanford University

Bar Admissions

- Maryland
- District of Columbia

Court Admissions

- US District Court, District of Maryland
- US Supreme Court
- US District Court, District of Columbia
- US Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit

Professional & Community Involvement

- American Bar Association
- Bar Association of the District of Columbia
- Coalition of Women's Initiatives in the Law, Washington, DC Chapter Board of Directors; former Washington, DC Chapter Co-President; former Washington, DC Chapter Vice President; former delegate, National Board
- Maryland State Bar Association

Nicole Lynn Kobrine

Partner

Outside the courtroom, Nicole is committed to advancing and retaining women attorneys through mentoring, external networking, internal relationship-building, and career development programs through her work with the Katten Women's Leadership Forum (WLF). Since 2007, Nicole has been a member of Katten's national WLF committee. She is also a member of the WLF National Mentoring Panel.

Nicole was a Division 1 scholar athlete while earning her Bachelor of Arts from Stanford University. While earning her doctorate of law degree from The George Washington University Law School, Nicole interned for the Honorable Pauline Newman of the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

Representative Experience

- Represented a foundation that owns a one-of-a-kind museum in construction defect and delay litigation with the large general contractor. The foundation sought over \$120 million from the contractor for the remediation of numerous defective conditions involving, among other things, the massive design-build structural glass curtainwall, 16 roofs, site work, and BIM model, as well as liquidated damages for failure to timely complete the project. After four years of high-profile litigation, the matter was set for a five-week trial in federal court. On the eve of trial, the parties reached an amicable settlement.
- Represented a hospital in a \$25 million litigation in federal court against a large general contractor relating to the redevelopment of property into a research and innovation campus. Among other damages, the hospital sought liquidated damages relating to the contractor's failure to timely complete the project. The litigation was resolved in late August of 2022.
- Represented homeowners association of a luxury DC condominium building in a construction defect case against the general contractor, which resulted in a favorable settlement for the association.
- Represented two DC-based investors in a co-working company in a dispute with one of their co-investors; during discovery in the litigation, discovered that the former CEO had been spoliating/destroying significant amounts of evidence highly relevant to the litigation. Together with a computer forensic expert, performed an intensive investigation and, after a seven-day trial, the court found that the former CEO had intentionally spoliated relevant evidence.
- Represented international shopping center owner in litigation in which a tenant asserted 24 counts against the owner, including

“

"Nicole is an outstanding adviser. She is smart, strategic and oriented towards getting her clients results."

***Chambers USA 2025
(District of Columbia,
Construction) survey response***

”

Nicole Lynn Kobrine

Partner

seeking a declaratory judgment that the owner was in breach of the tenant's lease for allowing other tenants to use their premises in alleged violation of the lease's use restrictions as well as seeking a declaration that the tenant was entitled to withhold rent for as long as the breach continued, which totaled more than \$40 million. Initially obtained dismissal of six counts and then was awarded summary judgment on all remaining counts except five, the damages for which were reduced to the nominal amount of \$5, permitting the owner to obtain a favorable settlement.

- Represented national real estate developer relating to its mixed-use development project in Tysons Corner in litigation by its general contractor, which resulted in a favorable settlement for the developer.
- Represented large real estate developer that owns landmark property in downtown Washington, DC in land use dispute with competing real estate developer owning adjacent property.
- Represented major downtown Washington, DC building owner committed to modernizing and redeveloping its building in litigation against several tenants determined to halt the redevelopment efforts. Advised other DC building owners facing similar tenant challenges prior to litigation being filed.
- Represented national real estate developer in construction arbitration in North Carolina against its general contractor. Obtained \$14 million judgment.
- Represented individual in several intra-family disputes involving real estate and trust and estate litigations over a \$50 million estate.
- Represented national real estate developer in construction litigation with state agency over the redevelopment of several state buildings. Successfully defended client in more than \$11 million in claims and obtained discovery sanctions award of \$90,000 against the state.
- Represented waterfront land owners in years-long land use and environmental dispute involving the Critical Area regulations in the Chesapeake Bay region. Obtained successful result before the Maryland Court of Appeals.

Recognitions

Recognized or listed in the following:

- Avvo
 - Top-Rated Lawyer, 2019–2023

Nicole Lynn Kobrine

Partner

- *Best Lawyers in America*
 - Commercial Litigation, 2020–2026
 - Litigation - Construction, 2025–2026
- *Chambers USA*
 - Construction, 2024-2026
- *Super Lawyers*
 - Washington, DC, 2023–2025
- *The Legal 500 United States*
 - Recommended Attorney, 2016

News

- Katten Climbs in *Chambers USA* 2026 Rankings (June 4, 2026)
- Katten Celebrates 101 Attorneys Honored by *Best Lawyers®* (August 21, 2025)
- *Chambers USA* 2025 Ranks Katten as Leading Law Firm (June 5, 2025)
- Katten Attorneys Recognized as *Best Lawyers®* and *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch®* Award Recipients (August 15, 2024)
- Katten Receives High Marks in *Chambers USA* Guide 2024 (June 6, 2024)
- Katten Attorneys Named to 2024 Washington, DC Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Lists (April 22, 2024)
- Katten Attorneys Distinguished by *Best Lawyers®* (August 17, 2023)
- Katten Attorneys Selected to 2023 Washington, DC Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Lists (April 26, 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)
- Eighteen Katten Practices and 70 Attorneys Recognized by *The Legal 500 United States* 2016 (June 17, 2016)