



Leslie D. Minier

Partner

Mergers and Acquisitions

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Leslie Minier, Katten's chief inclusion officer, 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 inclusion officer and founder of its Workplace Experience & Inclusion 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
- *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

Practices

- Corporate
- Environmental, Social and Governance
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- 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

Professional & Community Involvement

- 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

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- 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
- *Super Lawyers*
 - Illinois, 2026
- *Who's Who in Black Chicago*
 - 2007
- 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
- National Association of Women Lawyers, Board Member

News

- Katten Attorneys Named to 2026 Illinois Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Lists (January 21, 2026)
- Leslie Minier, Kimberly Smith and Janet Hoffman Recognized by *Crain's* as Notable Women in Law (February 23, 2024)
- Katten Launches New Practice Focused on ESG Risk and Investigations (February 14, 2023)
- *Crain's* Names Leslie Minier to 2022 Class of Notable Black Leaders and Executives (October 25, 2022)
- Katten's David Crichlow and Leslie Minier Named Among *Savoy's* Most Influential Black Lawyers (February 15, 2022)
- Katten Advises Exelon Foundation in Funding Startups Tackling Climate Change (July 29, 2020)
- Katten Named a 2012 Top Law Firm for Diversity by *MultiCultural Law Magazine* (June 13, 2012)
- Katten Represents Independent Nominees to NRG Board (February 2, 2009)
- Katten Awards 2006 Minority Scholarships to Chuoh Ngeh and Ferillia Roberson (January 22, 2007)

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Publications

- Whether In House or at a Large Firm, Keys to Success for Women of Color Remain the Same (December 2008)

Presentations and Events

- Center for Women in Law's 2016 Biennial Award Luncheon (April 15, 2016) | *Sponsor*
- The Chicago Bar Association's Alliance for Women Annual Awards Luncheon (May 22, 2008) | *Presenter*