

India D. Williams

Partner and Co-Chair, ESG Risk and Investigations

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Practices

FOCUS: Litigation

Corporate Governance

Entrepreneurial Ventures

ESG and Sustainable Investing

ESG Risk and Investigations

Monitorships

White Collar and Internal Investigations

Industries

Aviation

Energy

Finance and Financial Markets

Technology

Education

JD, University of Alabama School of Law, *magna cum laude*

The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, *ESG Risks and Opportunities Certification, ESG and Social Activism Certification*

University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, *Sustainable Capitalism & ESG Certification*

BA, University of Alabama, *magna cum laude*

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia

Illinois

Court Admissions

US Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit

Purpose-driven and strategic, India D. Williams counsels Global 500 and Fortune 500 corporations and c-suite executives on some of the most complex global finance deals, corporate compliance matters, and government, regulatory and internal investigations.

Having served on a monitor team and representing clients in numerous federal, state and multi-state investigations, her breadth of experience covers matters in the transportation, health care, utility, energy, emerging tech and retail sectors. India has negotiated a host of deals totaling over \$10 billion.

Savvy negotiator with enforcement, audit and investigation skill

India has a particular passion for and experience with counseling clients in the fast-developing area of environmental, social and governance (ESG). Clients navigating the new and quickly evolving ESG landscape benefit from India's unique background negotiating high-dollar finance deals and handling white collar investigations. In addition to having advised corporate and capital markets clients on ESG enforcement actions, Nasdaq board diversity litigation, and climate change regulations, India has obtained certifications in ESG Risks and Opportunities and in ESG and Social Activism from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School. She also obtained a certification in "Sustainable Capitalism and ESG" from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law. She taught "ESG: Racial Equity Audits" at the University of Alabama School of Law.

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Community Involvements

University of Alabama School of Law,
Board of Directors

Before private practice at major law firms, India clerked for Judge Bernice Donald, in the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, and interned with Judge Lawrence S. Coogler, in the US District Court for the Northern District of Alabama. In law school, she was editor-in-chief of the *Journal of the Legal Profession*.

Committed to wellbeing for herself and others, India is a respected wellness advocate and the founder and CEO of Rooted Women, a self-care and beauty products company. Rooted Woman built a support network of more than 15,000 women committed to radical self-care.

Representative Experience

- Advise on municipal social bond issuance.
- Advise on M&A transaction involving a WBENC certification.
- Represent health care management company and its affiliates in creating ESG programs.
- Advised corporate and capital markets clients on ESG enforcement actions, Nasdaq board diversity litigation, and climate change regulations.*
- Served on the monitor team for a utility company placed under a monitorship as part of its five-year criminal probation.*
- Represented transportation companies in SEC and DOJ investigations and multi-state litigation.*
- Represented a retail company in internal investigation and in response to a state investigation.*
- Represented a Fortune 100 company in an internal investigation and in response to a state investigation.*
- Advised a private equity company on climate change regulations and potential enforcement actions.*
- Counseled energy clients on recent ESG enforcement actions and litigation.*

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- Represented a retail company in the third-largest retail Chapter 11 in U.S. History.*
- Represented a casino conglomerate in a financing transition to increase its footprint.*
- Represented a multinational oil company in a corporate restructuring of its offshore drilling activities.*
- Represented a Fortune 100 bank in loan to emerging tech company raising capital.*
- Represented a PE investment company in a cross-border financing transaction.*
- Represented a publicly traded, Fortune 500 investment fund in purchase of notes from an online lending platform trust in order to break into the Fintech market.*
- Represented Fortune 100 bank in loan to music rights holder to provide additional liquidity enabling digitization of paper music portfolio.*

*Experience prior to Katten

News

- *Texas Lawbook* Reflects on Five Years of Katten in Dallas in Q&A With Mark Solomon (April 14, 2023)
- *Wolters Kluwer* Features Johnjerica Hodge and India Williams, ESG Practice (March 23, 2023)
- *The American Lawyer, Law360, Savoy* Feature India Williams and Katten's New ESG Practice (February 17, 2023)
- Katten Launches New Practice Focused on ESG Risk and Investigations (February 14, 2023)

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Publications

- ESG in a Nutshell (2023)
- Financial Markets and Funds Quick Take | Issue 13 (April 25, 2023)
- Financial Markets and Funds Quick Take | Issue 12 (March 17, 2023)
- ESG Litigation Heats Up in Marketing, Climate Pollution, and DEI (February 16, 2023)

Presentations and Events

- Driving Diversity in Law & Leadership Conference (June 2022) | *Keynote Panelist | Perspectives from the Top*
Panelist | ESG & Racial Equity Audits: What are they? How do you best use them? Things to consider?