



Speaker Program Brief

Harvard Fashion Law Association | Harvard Law School | 2026–2027

Prepared for Karen Artz Ash

EVENT DETAILS

Event Name: Building a Global Fashion IP Practice: A Conversation with Katten Partner Karen Artz Ash

Host: Harvard Fashion Law Association (HFLA), Harvard Law School

Date: September 24th, 2026

Time: 12:30–1:15 p.m. ET

Location: Wasserstein Hall, Harvard Law School, 1585 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02138 — room to be confirmed.

Format: In-person, moderated conversation with audience Q&A

Lunch: Served to attendees; sponsored by Katten (order and logistics to be handled by Emily Law and Katherine Polanco).

Audience: Roughly 30 Harvard Law students. A mix of 1Ls exploring practice areas and 2L/3Ls with existing interest in IP, brand, and fashion/retail work.

CONVERSATION DETAILS

Time	Segment
12:15	Doors open, lunch served, informal greeting
12:30	HFLA welcome and introduction (3–5 mins)
12:35	Moderated conversation (~25 mins); or Presentation (~10 mins) and moderated conversation (~15 mins)
1:00	Audience Q&A (~15 mins)
1:15	Closing remarks and thank you (~2 mins)
1:20	Informal time with students for those who can stay

Please let us know what format you prefer. We are glad to run slides if you prefer, and allow you time to freely talk about your practice before diving into questions. Please let us know at least a few days in advance if you plan to begin with a presentation, and send them our way at least an hour in advance of the event.

Draft introduction (to be read at the event)

Karen Artz Ash is a Partner at Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP in New York and National Co-Chair of the firm's Trademark/Copyright/Privacy Group. She provides comprehensive intellectual property counsel to major fashion industry names, designers, manufacturers, and brand management companies. Karen has developed significant experience in cross-border issues as her team has developed strong ties to the fashion industry globally. In addition to being a widely awarded practitioner, Karen has also taught IP licensing in the fashion industry as an Adjunct Professor at New York Law School for more than 15 years. She holds a J.D., *magna cum laude*, from New York Law School and an A.B. from Georgetown University. We are honored to welcome her to share her wisdom and experience with us today.

Draft Moderator questions

[Broadly to understand the practice]

1. What does a sophisticated fashion IP practice involve day to day? What is distinct about IP work for the fashion industry?

[To understand your career trajectory]

2. For those of you who don't know, Karen clerked in New York bankruptcy court before building her career as an IP lawyer. What motivated that transition?
3. You have long-term relationships with some major global fashion clients. Can you tell us who some of them are and how you built those relationships with clients in the fashion industry?

[Details about fashion IP practice]

4. When you are advising a fashion designer on protecting their work, what kinds of considerations and strategies are top of mind for you?
 - a. You have worked on both sides of infringement claims: on enforcement of IP rights and defense. What strategies and business considerations come to play in making those decisions?
 - b. Can you tell us a little bit about what your relationship with your clients' in-house counsel looks like?
5. IP practice can be fairly broad. Your work spans licensing, corporate structuring, and representation in proceedings, how did you build such a broad expertise? And, if you are comfortable sharing, do you have a favorite type of work?
6. On a similar train, you also have some non-fashion clients. How does your process, strategy and experience change, if at all, when working with fashion industry clients?

[Advice to audience and segway to open the floor for Q&A]

7. What do students misunderstand about "fashion law" as a career, and what could a 1L with no fashion background do to make themselves attractive to a firm like yours with a strong fashion practice?

LOGISTICAL DETAILS

Travel: We understand that travel from New York is arranged through Katten. If helpful, we can recommend hotels and restaurants near campus.

Arrival: An HFLA board member will meet you at the building entrance up to 30 and at least 10 minutes before start. Let us know when you plan to arrive and if you need parking or drop-off directions.

AV: Handheld or lapel mic, podium, and projector available. Please share any slides 48 hours in advance. We will set two seats for the guest and moderator at the front of the room.

Recording/photography: We would like to take photographs for HFLA's page and student newsletter. Please let us know if you prefer that none be taken or if you'd like to approve them prior to posting.

Publicity: The event will be promoted through HFLA listserv, the HLS events calendar, and HFLA social media. A draft poster is attached.

HFLA contact for day of support: Meghna Adhikari, Vice President of Strategy and Finance. madhikari@jd27.law.harvard.edu | (641) 510-6981.

WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU

1. Feedback on the attached event poster (by 9/17), introductory remarks, moderator questions or any other materials here (at your earliest convenience), if any.
2. Whether you would like to present for 10 mins or jump straight into moderated conversation. We can revise our questions accordingly. Please let us know by 9/20.
3. Confirmation of your arrival time when you have decided it, at the latest by 9/23.
4. Whether you have any accessibility needs we can accommodate.

If you or anyone on your team have any questions or need anything from our end, please reach out to hfla@mail.law.harvard.edu or madhikari@jd27.law.harvard.edu.

APPENDIX:

Poster Draft

The poster is divided into two main color sections: a dark grey/black left side and a red right side. At the top left is the Harvard Law School crest. The main title 'BUILDING A GLOBAL FASHION IP PRACTICE' is in large, bold, red capital letters. Below it, in smaller white text, is 'A CONVERSATION WITH KATTEN PARTNER KAREN ARTZ ASH'. A portrait of Karen Artz Ash, a woman with short dark hair wearing a floral patterned top, is positioned in the lower center. To her right, the text 'KATTEN' is in large white letters, with 'KINDLY SPONSORED BY' in smaller white text above it. The date and time '24TH SEPTEMBER, 2026 12:30 PM TO 1:15 PM E.T.' and the location 'WASSERSTEIN HALL, ROOM TBD HARVARD LAW SCHOOL' are in white text on a black background at the top right. The text 'HARVARD FASHION LAW ASSOCIATION' is written vertically in large, bold, black capital letters on the red background. At the bottom left, it says 'SCAN TO RSVP' above a QR code.



**BUILDING A
GLOBAL
FASHION IP
PRACTICE**

A CONVERSATION WITH
KATTEN PARTNER
KAREN ARTZ ASH

KAREN SERVES AS
THE NATIONAL CO-
CHAIR OF KATTEN'S
TRADEMARK/COPYR
IGHT/PRIVACY
GROUP, WHICH IS
NATIONALLY
RECOMMENDED
FOR COPYRIGHT
LAW AND HAS BEEN
RECOGNIZED AS
TRADEMARK LAW
FIRM OF THE
YEAR

KINDLY SPONSORED BY **Katten**

**HARVARD FASHION
LAW ASSOCIATION**

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