

Craig D. Cannon

Partner

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Services

Complex Commercial Litigation

Cybersecurity, Privacy & Data

Governance

E-Discovery

Litigation

Patent Litigation

ITC Section 337

Industries

Financial Services



Craig is a seasoned complex commercial litigator who focuses his practice on e-discovery, information governance, data privacy, cross-border data transfer and cybersecurity. As Discovery Counsel to several of the world's largest corporations, Craig combines his extensive litigation and e-discovery experience to help clients develop efficient and defensible legal strategies for discovery. Craig has authored dozens of articles and presented at numerous conferences regarding topics ranging from defensibly controlling e-discovery costs to the complexities of managing discovery in the EU. Craig is also the founder and team leader of the award-winning LitSmart® E-Discovery Team. Prior to joining Kilpatrick, Craig served as Global Discovery Counsel for Bank of America, where he was responsible for leading several of the world's largest and most complex e-discovery, data privacy, cross-border data transfer, information governance and cybersecurity projects. He also managed a team of litigation attorneys and paralegals that was responsible for handling material litigation matters. Professionally, Craig has been recognized as a North Carolina "Super Lawyer" in the area of e-discovery by *Super Lawyers* magazine (2014-2026), as one of North Carolina's "Legal Elite" by *Business North Carolina* magazine, as a North Carolina "Impact Law Leader" by *Business Leader* magazine, as one of the Piedmont Triad's "40 Leaders Under 40" by the *Triad Business Journal*, and as one of *North Carolina Lawyers Weekly* "2022 Leaders in the Law."

Craig is actively involved in pro bono, bar and community activities and currently serves as a member of Kilpatrick's national Pro Bono Committee. He has also previously served in leadership roles within the American Bar Association (Director of the Disaster Legal Services Program and Member of the Presidentially appointed Hurricane Katrina Task Force), the North Carolina Bar Association (Chair of the Young Lawyers Division and Member of the Board of Governors) and the North Carolina State Bar (Member of the Legal Assistance for Military Personnel and Authorized Practice Committees). In recognition of his dedication to pro bono and community service, Craig has been named as a recipient of the American Bar Association's national *Pro Bono Publico* and *Star of the Year Awards*, the North Carolina Bar Association's *Charles F. Blanchard Award* and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's national *Distinguished Service Award*.

Experience

Served as lead discovery counsel for a national credit reporting agency in a putative Fair Credit Reporting Act class action lawsuit. As lead discovery counsel, led all data mapping and e-discovery efforts related to the identification, preservation, collection, processing and production of ESI from internal and cloud based data sources. In addition, implemented screening strategies designed to ensure that sensitive financial data sets were appropriately reviewed and produced in compliance with all applicable state and federal privacy standards.

Served as lead discovery counsel for a global leader in the design and manufacture of aerospace equipment and systems in responding to an extremely time-sensitive preliminary injunction. Under a deadline to produce documents in 12 days, assisted the client with the on-site identification and collection of electronic data from more than 25 custodians (both structured and unstructured data sets, including archived email) in three states over a period of four days. Processed more than 1.2 TBs of data, representing close to 2 million documents, and prepared for review. Managed the review of approximately 35,000 documents and successfully produced 100 GBs of data representing 27,000 documents by the court-imposed deadline.

Served or currently serving as lead discovery counsel for various Fortune 500 financial institutions, technology companies, specialty materials companies, and multinational conglomerates in complex DOJ and SEC investigation matters related to price fixing, collusion, theft of trade secrets, Foreign Corrupt Practices Act violations, internal accounting insufficiencies, and insider trading. As lead discovery counsel, provided comprehensive advice and guidance about applicable discovery standards and investigation response strategies. In addition, assisted in identifying, analyzing, reviewing, and producing voluminous data sets to the SEC and DOJ in compliance with applicable standards. Further, actively assisted with depositions, motion practice and oral argument.

Served as lead discovery counsel for a global chemical manufacturer in U.S. and international insurance coverage disputes related to a chemical plant interruption. As lead discovery counsel, assisted the manufacturer in identifying, preserving, collecting, processing, and producing voluminous electronically stored data sets (including both unstructured and structured data sets) from jurisdictions throughout the world, including the U.S., EU, and China. Provided advice and guidance to the manufacturer about applicable cross-border data transfer and data privacy standards. In addition, conducted all factual discovery in the U.S., EU and China.

Currently serving as lead discovery counsel for a global manufacturer involving the design and development of a bio-fuel construction project. As lead discovery counsel, assisted the client in identifying, preserving, collecting, processing, reviewing and producing voluminous electronically stored data sets (including both unstructured and structured data sets). In addition, conducted factual investigations and assisted the client in complying with all applicable discovery standards.

Currently serves as outside national discovery counsel for various firm clients (including numerous financial service clients). As national discovery counsel, provides strategic advice and guidance on all aspects of e-discovery, including litigation readiness/preparedness, data privacy, cross-border data transfer, technology assisted review, document review processes and procedures, data collection, data processing, data hosting, data production, vendor selection and evaluation, 26f agreements, 30b6 data and discovery related depositions,

SARs, privilege screening, information governance strategies, defensible data deletion and data related books and records sections within M&A and divestiture agreements.

Currently serving as lead discovery counsel for a global financial services company in responding to a data breach. As lead discovery counsel, provided comprehensive advice and guidance to the client regarding strategy for compliance with applicable regulations. Over a period of weeks, organized and trained a team of 60 contract attorneys stationed on-site at the firm's Review Center in Winston-Salem. Completed the review of approximately 1 TB of data representing more than 500,000 documents, including extensive redactions, in 45 days.

Served as lead discovery counsel for energy pipeline system in a FERC investigation regarding highly complex tariff issues. As lead discovery counsel, provided comprehensive advice and guidance to the client regarding strategy for compliance with applicable regulations and discovery orders. Successfully processed 550 GBs of data representing more than 2.6 million records. With the use of advanced analytics tools, narrowed data set needing review to 42,000 documents, saving the client over \$200,000 in review costs. Completed review of approximately 42,000 records and prepared for production in 25 days.

Currently serving as lead discovery counsel for a state environmental agency and its assigned Department of Justice team in multiple complex enforcement actions involving the largest domestic electric utility. As lead discovery counsel, assisted the agency in identifying, preserving, collecting, processing and producing voluminous electronically stored data sets (including both unstructured and structured data sets). In addition, conducted factual investigations and assisted the agency in complying with all applicable case management and discovery orders.

In case for one of the world's largest staffing agencies involving dozens of subsidiaries, advised client regarding potential difficulties associated with restoring backup tapes and developed strategy to minimize efforts and costs. Rather than restore several thousand daily backups in a fishing expedition, worked with client's internal IT team to restore only the backup tapes that were most likely to contain relevant evidence based on initial review of a test case scenario, saving the clients several hundred thousand dollars in restoration costs alone. Further, organized, trained and supervised 25+ contract attorneys to complete review of more than 500,000 documents at the Firm's onsite Review Center by the court-imposed deadline.

Currently serving as lead discovery counsel for a global action camera manufacturer in a complex design patent infringement matter related to a leading action camera. As lead discovery counsel, assisted the manufacturer in identifying, preserving, collecting, processing and producing voluminous electronically stored data sets (including both unstructured and structured data sets) from jurisdictions throughout the world, including the EU. In addition, provided advice and guidance to the manufacturer about applicable cross-border data transfer and data privacy standards. Further, managed and staffed multiple document review projects.

Served as lead discovery counsel for a national franchisor in a complex wage and hour class action matter. As lead discovery counsel, successfully assisted the franchisor in identifying and implementing an innovative technological solution that allowed for the efficient recovery of unstructured data from disaster recovery backup

tapes, thereby saving the franchisor significant expense and allowing them to respond to pending discovery requests in a timely manner. Also led all efforts to identify, preserve, collect, process and produce voluminous unstructured and structured electronically stored data sets. In addition, actively assisted the franchisor with discovery related motions (e.g., motions for cost shifting), oral arguments and depositions.

Education

Stonier National Graduate School of Banking, University of Pennsylvania Graduate (2011)

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Kenan-Flagler Business School M.B.A. (2011) *Beta Gamma Sigma; Order of the Old Well; Frank Porter Graham Honor Society*

University of Iowa College of Law J.D. (2000) Recipient, *Recent Alumni Award*; Selected to conduct oral argument before a three judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit; Dean Mason Ladd American Inn of Court; Assisted the Maya people of Belize in human rights matters pend

University of Iowa B.A. (1997) Recipient, *Distinguished Alumni Award*

Admissions

North Carolina

Court Admissions

Supreme Court of the United States

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina

U.S. District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina

U.S. District Court for the Western District of North Carolina

Professional & Community Activities

American Bar Association, Disaster Legal Services Program, Former National Director; Special Committee on Disaster Response and Preparedness, Former Member; Hurricane Katrina Task Force, Former Member; Young Lawyers Division, Former District 9 Representative

Children's Museum of Winston-Salem, Board of Directors, Former Member

Georgetown Advanced e-Discovery Institute, Member

Leadership Winston-Salem, Graduate

North Carolina Bar Association, Board of Governors, Former Member; Young Lawyers Division, Former Chair; Strategic Planning Committee, Former Member; Young Lawyer Initiatives Task Force, Former Member; 4All Committee, Former Member; CLE Committee, Former Member

North Carolina Board of Law Examiners, Character and Fitness Committee, Chair of 21st District Bar Candidate Interview Panel; Bar Examination Drafting Committee, Member of Drafting Panel

North Carolina State Bar, Authorized Practice Committee, Former Advisory Member; Legal Assistance for Military Personnel Committee, Former Member

Old Salem, Inc., Board of Trustees, Former Member

Sedona Conference, Member (Working Groups 1 and 6)

Triad Academy, Board of Trustees, Former Member

University of North Carolina School of the Arts Foundation, Board of Directors, Member

Wake Forest University School of Business, Mentor for MBA and MA Students

Insights

[News Releases](#)

Over 100 Kilpatrick Attorneys Named 2025 Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
November 25, 2025

[News Releases](#)

126 Kilpatrick Attorneys Named 2024 Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
November 11, 2024

[News Releases](#)

Kilpatrick Attorneys Named in 2024 North Carolina Super Lawyers
January 30, 2024

[Publication](#)

Law Firms' E-Discovery Centers See Growing Business From Other Firms, Clients
August 8, 2023

[Publication](#)

Southeast E-Discovery Leaders Say Generative AI Needs More Development for Their Use
August 3, 2023