Gwendolyn C. Payton

Partner

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Services

Antitrust Litigation

Class Action Defense

Complex Commercial Litigation

Trade Secrets

Industries

Health & Life Sciences

Gwendolyn Payton is Co-Team Leader of the firm's Complex Commercial Litigation practice and a member of the firm's Executive Committee. Gwendolyn focuses her practice on complex commercial litigation, class actions, trade secret litigation, health care, and antitrust and trade litigation. She has active trial practice in state and federal courts, and regularly argues appeals in state and federal courts.

Prior to joining the firm, Gwendolyn was a shareholder in the Seattle, Washington office of a large law firm where she was Chair of its Class Action Practice Group and Co-Chair of its Health Care Practice Group and her practice focused on antitrust and trade regulation, class action defense, health care, intellectual property and technology.

Gwendolyn was listed in the 2019, 2020 and 2021 editions of *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business* for General Commercial Litigation. She was recognized as a Washington "Rising Star" (2001-2012) and a Washington "Super Lawyer" (2016-2018, 2020-2024) for Class Action/Mass Torts by *Super Lawyers* magazine. Gwendolyn was recognized by *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Commercial Litigation (2023-2027). In 2024 and 2026, clients named Gwendolyn as a "BTI Client Service All-Star" in recognition of her client service excellence. Gwendolyn was named a "Local Litigation Star" in 2017, a "Future Star" (2009-2016), and one of "Top 250 Women in Litigation" (2012-2018) by *Benchmark Litigation*. She is the recipient of the Outstanding Mentor Award in 2016 by the King County Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division. Additionally in 2018, Gwendolyn was selected by the American Bar Association as the honoree of the John Paul Stevens Guiding Hand of Counsel Award for her pro bono work representing clients facing the death penalty. She was also recognized as a "Forty Under 40" in 2008 by *Puget Sound Business Journal*. She is *AV Preeminent*® rated by Martindale-Hubbell.*

Education

University of Michigan Law School J.D. (1996)

University of Chicago B.A. (1994) Art History

Admissions

Utah (2022)

Oregon (2020)

Alaska (1997)

Washington (1997)

Court Admissions

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit

U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska

U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey

U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon

U.S. District Court for the District of Utah

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas

U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington

U.S. Supreme Court

Professional & Community Activities

Pacific Northwest Ballet, Trustee; Gala Chair (2013, 2014 and 2017)

Yoga Behind Bars, Advisory Counsel

Insights

News Releases

Kilpatrick Attorneys Once Again Earn Outstanding Recognitions in 2027 Edition of The Best Lawyers in America®

August 20, 2026

News Releases

Kilpatrick Adds Experienced Litigation Partner in Silicon Valley

June 30, 2026

News Releases

Kilpatrick Breaks Record for Number of Attorneys Recognized in 2025 Edition of The Best Lawyers in America®

August 16, 2024

News Releases

Three Kilpatrick Partners Named 2024 BTI Client Service All-Stars

June 5, 2024

News Releases

Accomplished Litigation Counsel Re-Joins Kilpatrick in Winston-Salem

April 24, 2024