

Kevin R. Gustafson

Partner

Chicago
+1.312.807.4304

Kevin.Gustafson@klgates.com

OVERVIEW

Kevin R. Gustafson is a partner in the firm's Asset Management and Investment Funds practice. Kevin is a highly experienced adviser across financial services, fund product, and regulatory areas, with significant experience in global asset management and distribution and a specific focus on exchange-traded funds (ETFs). With more than three decades of experience in the financial and legal industries, Kevin offers a skilled perspective to help his clients devise their legal strategies with respect to ETFs, including for their domestic and international launches and listings. He is regularly called upon to advise on US regulatory issues related to investment management, fund structure and formation, governance, investments in derivatives, distribution, advisory registration, and compliance matters globally. Kevin's experience spans a number of jurisdictions, including the United States, Europe, Latin America, Canada, China, Singapore, Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Australia.

Kevin has strong connections with multiple listing exchanges in the United States and globally and brings extensive knowledge from his involvement in ETFs going back to when they first were being designed and launched over two decades ago.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Throughout his legal career, Kevin has been instrumental in the development, listing, and support of more than 250 ETPs across multiple global jurisdictions, guiding companies on regulatory issues and rule changes related to investment management, fund structure and formation, governance, exchange listing and trading, market distribution, and advisory registration and compliance matters applicable to both US and non-US domiciled firms. While serving as global in-house general counsel for a global asset manager, Kevin also led the regulatory and legal initiative to expand the ETFs' global exchange listing and distribution for their ETFs, including the launch of its UCITs ETF range.

Prior to joining the firm, Kevin served as general counsel and chief compliance officer at an investment management firm, where he acted as head of legal and regulatory compliance matters. He also provided support in product development and exchange-listing activities for the ETF sponsor, including the initiation and driving of regulatory rule changes for derivatives-based structured outcome funds, which were new to market.

Kevin was also previously responsible for legal affairs, regulatory compliance matters, risk, and corporate governance management for the Americas for a publicly listed global asset management company and served as chief compliance officer of its US investment management company subsidiary.

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Volunteer Board Member Advising the American Cancer Society
- Member of US Supreme Court Bar

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Panelist, “What You Need to Know about the Regulation of Digital Assets,” Chicago CCO Roundtable, 26 June 2025

EDUCATION

- B.A., Wheaton College, 1987
- J.D., John Marshall Law School, 1992

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of Illinois

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 29 September 2026, United States: ETFs, 351, and other Good Stuff: A Ruling and a Notice
- 22 July 2026, IRS and Treasury Discuss Current Issues With ETFs and Tax Aware Strategies
- 15 July 2026, Debuting the ETF Share Class--And Its Challenges and Future, *The Review of Securities & Commodities Regulation*
- 1 July 2026, The SEC Seeks Novel Ideas for Novel ETFs
- 3 April 2026, United States: The Last Leg: SEC Extends Trading Relief to Share Class ETFs
- 19 February 2026, United States: Who Could Have Guessed? Multiple Sponsors File for Prediction Market Based ETFs
- 28 August 2025, ETF Handbook, Fourth Edition
- 13 March 2025, United States: New Kid on Y'all's Block
- November 2024, Asset Management and Investment Funds Fall Conference—Washington, D.C.

- 19 July 2024, SEC Initiates Sweep of Adviser on T+1 Compliance
- 23 April 2024, Three Things to Know About Cboe's ETF Share Class Filing

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Co-Author, "Regulatory Monitor," *The Investment Lawyer*, November 2024

NEWS & EVENTS

- 28 April 2026, K&L Gates Advises Calamos Advisors on Launch of Autocallable Income UCITS ETF
- January 2026 (dates by location listed below), 2026 ETF Think Tank®
- 10 March 2026, 2026 ETF Think Tank®–London
- January 2026 (dates by location listed below), 2026 ETF Think Tank®
- 10 March 2026, 2026 ETF Think Tank®–London
- 30 October 2025, 2025 Asset Management and Investment Funds Fall Conference—Chicago
- 27 March 2025, 2025 ETF Think Tank®–Sydney
- 23 January 2025 - 6 February 2025, 2025 ETF Think Tanks®–United States
- 11 March 2025, 2025 ETF Think Tank®–London
- 23 January 2025 - 6 February 2025, 2025 ETF Think Tanks®–United States
- 13 November 2024, K&L Gates Assists Performance Trust on the Launch of its First UCITS ETF
- 13 February 2024, Entering the European ETF Market
- 28 November 2023 and 5 December 2023, 2023 ETF Think Tanks®
- 28 November 2023, K&L Gates Expands Asset Management and Investment Funds Practice With Chicago Partner Addition

MEDIA MENTIONS

- 29 April 2026, *With Intelligence* | Bitwise, Roundhill push deeper into prediction markets

OTHER MEDIA MENTIONS

- "K&L Gates Adds ETF Firm GC To Asset Management Practice," *Law360*, 1 December 2023

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Asset Management and Investment Funds
- Broker-Dealers
- Derivatives and Commodities
- Exchange-Traded Products
- Global Distribution
- Global Financial Services Regulation
- Investment Advisers
- Investment Funds
- Portfolio Management, Trading, and Compliance
- US Registered Investment Companies

INDUSTRIES

- Digital Assets and Blockchain Technology
- Technology