

Shiau Yen Chin-Dennis

Managing Partner, Portland Office

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OVERVIEW

Shiau Yen Chin-Dennis offers business-focused legal solutions, advising domestic and multinational companies on corporate matters and transactions, such as mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, restructuring, and corporate governance. She has extensive experience in international and cross-border issues, including market entry, integration, and expansion. Shiau Yen has represented foreign investors, including Asian investors entering the US market and manages global corporate governance for multinational companies. She also represents companies in commercial agreements, contract management, and international commercial transactions, along with executive employment matters. Additionally, she is a founding faculty member of the firm's mini-MBA program, which trains associates in key business concepts.

Shiau Yen is also the managing partner of the firm's Portland office and a member of the firm's Management Committee. She is the chair of the firmwide Opportunity and Inclusion Committee. Drawing from her corporate America experience, she is a strategic and innovative thinker as well as an experienced board member.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Prior to joining the firm, Shiau Yen practiced as the corporate counsel responsible for all corporate legal matters pertaining to a global artificial intelligence company and its regional offices and subsidiaries in the Asia-Pacific region, including its R&D centers. She was a member of the global commercial transaction and corporate affairs legal team. Prior to practicing law, she managed the World Trade Center North Carolina, including oversight of international trade delegations and advocacy on international business issues and policies.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognized by *Chambers USA* for Corporate/M&A in Oregon, 2021-2026
- Certified Ambassador, Greater Portland Inc., 2018-present
- 2023 Oregon State Bar - President's Diversity and Inclusion Award
- 2023 League of Minority Voters' Civil Rights Award for K&L Gates Portland

- 2022 CEO of the Year Award for Executives, Portland Business Journal
- 2020 League of Minority Voters' Diversity & Inclusion Award for K&L Gates Portland (played an instrumental role)
- Patriot Award, US Office of the Secretary of Defense, 2019
- Leadership Award, API Forward, 2019
- Nominated for the inaugural 2018 Changing Lawyer Award at the *International Legal Technology Association Annual Conference*, recognizing and celebrating her unwavering commitment to client service and visionary approach to the disruption of the traditional legal practice.
- 2016 Women of Vision, *Daily Journal of Commerce*
- 2016 Women of Influence, *Portland Business Journal*
- 2015 Global Leader Award for K&L Gates (played an instrumental role)
- 2014 Leadership Council on Legal Diversity, 2014 Fellow

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

APPOINTMENTS

- National District Export Council (Steering Committee Member, Pacific North Region)
- National District Export Council Trade Policy & Legislative Affairs Committee (Chair, Asia Subcommittee)
- Oregon District Export Council (Chair and Member, appointed by the US Secretary of Commerce)
- Oregon-China Sister State Committee (Member, appointed by the Office of the Senate President for the State of Oregon)
- North Carolina District Export Council (Member, appointed by the US Secretary of Commerce, 2005–2011)

ASSOCIATIONS

- Oregon Business and Industry (Executive Committee and Board Member, 2021–present)
- The Library Foundation, (Board of Trustees Member, 2019–present)
- Boy Scouts of America, Cascade Pacific Council (Board Member and Founding Co-Chair for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, 2018–2021)
- Green Empowerment (Board Member, 2018–2019)
- International Association for Contract & Commercial Management (Member)
- International Bar Association (former Corporate Counsel Forum Committee Member)

- Oregon Asian Pacific American Bar Association (Member)
- National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (Member)
- Oregon State Bar Association, International Law Section (former Nominating Committee Member)
- North Carolina Bar Association (Member, former Treasurer and Officer, and Mentorship Chair for the International Law Section)
- Professional Human Resources (PHR) Certification
- Technology Association of Oregon (Member, International Community)

OPPORTUNITY AND INCLUSION

- K&L Gates Firmwide Opportunity and Inclusion Committee (Chair)
- 2020 Women on Boards, Oregon Leadership Committee (Member)
- Eleventh and Twelfth Annual Career Strategies Conference, Corporate Counsel Women of Color (K&L Gates Representative)
- Women's Leadership Alliance of Greater Portland & SW Washington (Founding Member & Advisory Council Member, 2014–present)
- Japan-America Society of Oregon (Women's Leadership Council, 2018 - present; Board Member, 2016–2018)
- Asian Pacific Islander Chamber of Commerce of Oregon (Co-Founder, Board Member, and President, 2022–present)
- Northwest China Council (Pro Bono Counsel)
- League of Minority Voters (Pro Bono Counsel)
- Leadership Council on Legal Diversity (2014 Fellow)
- International Women's Forum (Member)
- International Trade Education Minority Initiative, City of Durham, North Carolina (former Member)
- American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina (former Board Member)

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Panelist, “How to get support to make AI innovation happen?,” AI and Access to Justice Summit, Stanford Law School, October 2024
- Panelist, “The Superpower in Lawyering Like a Human: How Connecting to Your Humanity May Just Be Your Best Legal Skill,” American Bar Association, May 2023

- "Breaking the Glass and Bamboo Ceilings," SAS Institute, December 2021
- "Practicing Law in the 21st Century, Disruptions, Robots, AI, and Machine Learning," Campbell University, November 2021
- Panelist, "How to Leverage Allyship to Build & Communicate Diversity and Refute Implicit Bias in Your Legal Practice," American Bar Association, June 2021
- Panelist, "CEO Diversity Forum," Partners in Diversity, December 2020
- "Return to Work – Practical Employment Law Advice When Managing Employees During the COVID-19 Pandemic," Financial Executives International, June 2020
- "Finding Your Voice and Leading From Within," University of Portland, January 2020
- "The Pitch and Book of Business: Get the Most of the Outside Counsel and Corporate Counsel Relationship," National Bar Association Corporate Law Section, Gateway to Success Conference, March 2018
- "Global Leadership Forum," API Forward Panel Discussion, October 2016
- "How to do an Effective Pitch for Business: Mock Pitch Session for Law Firms," Corporate Counsel Women of Color (CCWC) Conference Panel Discussion, September 2016
- "How do we Tackle the Stereotypes as Asian Pacific American Women?," Oregon Asian Pacific American Bar Association Panel Discussion, September 2016
- "19th Annual Opportunities for Law in Oregon (OLIO) Orientation," Panelist, August 2016
- "Mitigating Risks of Export," Export Council of Oregon and U.S. Commercial Service Panel Discussion, October 2015
- "Cross-Border Acquisitions by Private Enterprises in the Current Economic Environment: The Old Obstacles and the New Opportunities," ABA New York Spring International Law Meeting, 2012
- "The Top Five Tips To Help Your Clients Do Business Internationally," North Carolina Bar Association, International Law and Practice, 2012
- "Doing Business Internationally — A Primer for Oregon Businesses," Oregon Business Magazine, Law Supplement, August 2011
- "Intellectual Property Licensing and Confidentiality/Non-Disclosure Agreements," School of Textiles at North Carolina State University, 2010 and 2011
- "The Legalities of Doing Business in China," National Business Institute, 2010
- "Doing Business in China Forum," MBA Program, Kenan-Flagler Business School, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2007

EDUCATION

- M.B.A., Campbell University, 2007
- J.D., Campbell University, Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law, 2005
- M.S., North Carolina State University, 1998 *(in Ed, Concentrations: Psychometrics, Cognitive Styles and Training and Development)*
- B.S., Auburn University

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of North Carolina
- Bar of Oregon

LANGUAGES

- Chinese (Cantonese)
- Chinese (Mandarin)
- Hakka
- Malay

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 11 September 2026, Carbon Quarterly–Volume 14
- 26 January 2026, Carbon Quarterly–Volume 13
- 6 October 2025, Carbon Quarterly–Volume 12
- 6 May 2025, Carbon Quarterly–Volume 11
- 8 January 2025, Carbon Quarterly–Volume 10
- 21 August 2024, Carbon Quarterly – Volume 9
- 30 April 2024, Carbon Quarterly – Volume 8
- May 2022, May 2022 Accolades
- January 2022, January 2022 Accolades
- 11 November 2020, Congratulations to Our Diverse and Women Lawyers

NEWS & EVENTS

- 4 June 2026, K&L Gates Receives Nearly 235 Firm, Individual Rankings in 2026 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 4 May 2026, K&L Gates Establishes Global AI and Innovation Partner Role
- 2 February 2026, Nearly 50 K&L Gates Lawyers Recognized on *Thomson Reuters* Stand-out Lawyers List
- 5 June 2025, K&L Gates Receives More Than 240 Firm, Individual Rankings in 2025 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 11 March 2025, Nearly 50 K&L Gates Lawyers Receive Global Recognition in *Thomson Reuters*' Stand-out Lawyers List
- 7 November 2024 - 10 November 2024, 2024 NAPABA Convention, Hosted by National Asian Pacific American Bar Association
- 31 July 2024, K&L Gates Again Recognized as a "Best Place to Work for Disability Inclusion"
- 6 June 2024, K&L Gates Receives More Than 200 Firm, Individual Rankings in 2024 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 1 June 2023, K&L Gates Receives Firm, Individual Rankings in 2023 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 1 June 2022, K&L Gates Receives Firm, Individual Rankings in 2022 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 26 May 2022, Leading Through the Pandemic and Beyond, Hosted by Technology of Oregon (TAO) Leader Launchpad
- 24 May 2021, Chambers USA 2021 Guide Recognizes K&L Gates Corporate Practice, Lawyers Among Leaders
- 2 November 2020, Numerous K&L Gates Diverse and Women Lawyers Recognized for Leadership and Legal Accomplishments
- 27 July 2020, K&L Gates to be Honored With Liberty and Hope Award From Oregon League of Minority Voters
- 4 October 2019, K&L Gates, Numerous Lawyers Honored for Diversity, Legal Leadership

OTHER MEDIA MENTIONS

- Quoted, "K&L Gates Looks to Extend Gen AI Expertise to Access to Justice Fight," *The American Lawyer*, 30 October 2024
- Interview, “Table of Experts: Giving women a voice in the age of AI and generative AI," *Portland Business Journal*, 29 March 2024
- Interview, "Growth Mindset and Leadership - Companies Can Profit by Encouraging Collaboration, Participation, and Innovation," Association for Corporate Growth (ACG), March 2023

- Mentioned, "Meet the Portland Business Journal's 2022 Executives of the Year," *Portland Business Journal*, 7 March 2022
- Quoted, "The Gathering Storm," *Oregon Business* magazine, September 2020
- Quoted, "The Remote Lawyer," *Oregon Business* magazine, June 2020
- Article, "I've Broken Many Ceilings," Oregon State Bar Bulletin, February/March 2020
- Interview, "How Oregon Works: Why the law profession will be upended by AI," *Portland Business Journal*, January 2020
- Interview, "Faces of the List," *Portland Business Journal*, 10 January 2020
- Quoted, "A Robot at the Bench," *Oregon Business* magazine, November 2019

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Technology Transactions and Sourcing
- Corporate Governance
- Employment Issues in Business Transactions
- Human Resource Advice and Compliance
- Private Equity Transactions

INDUSTRIES

- Advertising and Marketing
- Carbon Solutions
- Consumer Goods and Services
- Energy
- Financial Services
- Food, Beverage, and Agribusiness
- General Manufacturing
- Hardware and Semiconductors
- Manufacturing
- Manufacturing Technologies

- Maritime
- Private Equity
- Technology
- Transportation and Logistics

EMERGING ISSUES

- Artificial Intelligence (AI)

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

M&A/Joint Ventures

- Represented a technology company and information provider for automated vehicle applications in its investment and joint venture in China
- Represented a closely held private equity firm in its acquisition of an industrial parts manufacturer in Indiana
- Represented a marine and ship industrial repair company located in San Diego, California in connection with the sale of the company to large shipbuilding company
- Represented a global public relations and communications agency in its acquisition of a company with locations and operations in New York, California, and Utah
- Served as local counsel for a global energy public conglomerate with the purchase of a surface mining manufacturing company in a transaction worth approximately US$1.28 billion
- Represented a US technology services and outsourcing company in the acquisition of the India operations and US subsidiary of one of the largest construction companies in North America
- Represented Vigor Industrial LLC, an Oregon-based shipbuilding, ship repair, and industrial marine service provider, in its sale to private equity firms The Carlyle Group and Stellex Capital Management
- Represented a leading producer of high-quality fence boards with the sale of the company
- Represented the original founder of an Oregon-based company operating a video licensing platform, storyboarding, and online film making community in purchasing back 100% of the shares of the company from a Malaysian parent/investor
- Represented a regulatory and consumer education solutions company for retailers and manufacturers, in connection with its acquisition by a global software company
- Represented a technology company that designs, manufactures, and supports microscope technology in certain international corporate matters, as well as post-acquisition integration in multiple international jurisdictions in Asia and Europe

- Represented OIA Global Logistics SCM and Oregon International Air Freight Company as international corporate counsel, including due diligence for international transactions and post-acquisition operations integration
- Represented a company that provides specialized workforce solutions in its acquisition of a workforce company, and its post-acquisition integration in multiple international jurisdictions (Canada, Asia, Latin America, and Europe)
- Represented a Chinese medical device public company in investment in an Oregon company
- Represented a multifranchise restaurant conglomerate in a Chinese joint venture
- Represented a shipbuilding and ship repair company in connection with its acquisition of a metal fabricator and systems integrator
- Represented a shipbuilding and ship repair company with the private placement of equity to a large private equity firm
- Represented SAS Institute Inc. in its acquisition of two software companies with operations in China and India

General and International Corporate

- Acted for a global public relations and communications firm, including its international operations
- Represented a global machining company in its commercial and corporate matters related to commercial agreements, international market entry and expansion, international corporate restructuring, international distributor agreements, etc.
- Represented SAS Institute Inc. as international corporate counsel, specifically in international corporate governance, international subsidiary matters, market entry, expansion and exit, and complex cross-border issues
- Represented Plexis Healthcare System in an exploration of market entry
- Represented a public company that provides specialized workforce solutions in managing its international subsidiary matters and corporate cross-border issues in multiple jurisdictions, including India, Mexico, Colombia, Chile, Costa Rica, and Panama
- Represented a Chinese investor in its formation of an e-commerce technology company in Oregon

Commercial Transactions

- Represented a global leading communications hardware and project solutions provider regarding its commercial transactions, such as reseller and distribution agreements
- Represented a worldwide transportation, supply chain management, and packaging solutions provider in its commercial transactions
- Represented a global logistics company in drafting, review, and negotiation of its customer and supplier, 3PL, and 4PL agreements, and provided commercial agreement support of same

- Represented a global software company in its standardization and localization of commercial and licensing agreements for use in international jurisdictions