

Jackie S. Celender

Partner

Pittsburgh
+1.412.355.8678

jackie.celender@klgates.com

OVERVIEW

Jackie Celender is a partner and trial attorney whose practice focuses on complex commercial litigation, class action defense, and international arbitration. She is a practice group coordinator of the firm's Commercial Disputes group.

Jackie has extensive experience litigating disputes arising from commercial contracts, mergers and acquisitions, corporate and partnership breakups, and corporate governance claims in a variety of industries and sectors, with a particular focus on manufacturing, specialty chemical, aerospace, and energy.

Jackie also has significant experience defending product liability, mass tort, and class actions in state and federal courts across the country. Jackie has assisted clients in the wake of catastrophic emergency and industrial incidents, such as explosions, fires, chemical releases, and other events. Her practice covers all aspects of litigation and dispute resolution, including lead counsel advocacy, and she has tried numerous cases to conclusion. Jackie has represented clients in a variety of high-stakes domestic and international arbitrations governed by the rules of leading arbitration institutions, such as the ICC, SCC, ICDR, AAA, and CPR.

Jackie works actively with her clients to develop and implement innovative and cost-effective strategies and solutions to mitigate risks. She has been recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Commercial Litigation for the last three years.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognized by *Chambers USA* for Litigation: General Commercial in Pennsylvania: Pittsburgh & Surrounds, 2025-2026
- Recognized by *The Legal 500 United States* as a Recommended Lawyer
  - M&A Litigation: Defense, 2026
  - General Commercial Disputes – Mid-Market ($0-250m), 2026
  - General Commercial Disputes, 2025

- Recognized by *The Legal 500 United States* as a Leading Associate for General Commercial Disputes, 2019
- Named a *Thomson Reuters*' Stand-out Lawyer, 2025-2026
- Recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Commercial Litigation in Pittsburgh, PA, 2023-2026
- Recognized in the *Lawdragon 500 Leading Litigators in America* guide, 2024-2025

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Board Member and Fellow, The Wendell G. Freeland Society
- National Association of Women Lawyers (NAWL) Women in International Law and Dispute Resolution Affinity Group
  - Member, current
  - Co-Chair, 2022-2023
- Member, ArbitralWomen
- United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania, Women's Leadership Council
- Firm Service
  - Practice Group Coordinator, Commercial Disputes, 2020-present
  - Chair, Pittsburgh office Associate Development Committee, 2024-present
- Allegheny County Bar Association
- Member of Host Committee for American Society of International Law (ASIL) Mid-Year Meeting, Pittsburgh, 2023

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- “Post Transaction Disputes,” ACC WPA, October 2025
- “International Arbitration and Construction Disputes,” April 2024
- “A Look at Practice Areas with Historic Underrepresentation of Women,” Allegheny County Bar Association, Women in the Law Division, March 2024
- “International Arbitration 101,” March 2024
- “Careful Communications and Attorney/Client Privilege,” February 2024
- Moderator, “International Arbitration of Insurance Disputes: A Primer and Practical Considerations” Discussion, National Association of Women Lawyers (NAWL) International Arbitration Affinity Group, December 2023

- Co-host, K&L Gates “Women in Manufacturing: Navigating 2023 Disruptors” Event, May 2023
- “Arbitrating Smart: Strategies for Success in an International Arbitration,” December 2021, May 2023
- Moderator, “Expert and In-House Perspective on the Unique Features of International Arbitration” Panel Discussion, National Association of Women Lawyers (NAWL) International Arbitration Affinity Group, December 2022
- “International Arbitration: Critical Considerations in Drafting an Effective Arbitration Clause and Trends in Institution and Seat Selection,” September 2022
- Moderator, “Ask the Arbitrator” Q&A Session, National Association of Women Lawyers (NAWL) International Arbitration Affinity Group, June 2022
- “International Arbitration: A Primer on Core Advantages and Critical Considerations in Drafting an Effective Arbitration Clause,” June 2022
- “International Arbitration: Key Considerations from Clause to Award,” April 2022
- “Measure Twice, Cut Once: Critical Considerations in Drafting Effective International Arbitration Provisions,” April & November 2021
- “From Clause to Award: International Arbitration in Commercial Disputes,” August 2021
- “A Renewed Look at the International Arbitration Landscape in the Wake of COVID-19 and Geopolitical Headwinds,” May 2021
- “Pre-Litigation Demand Letters and Maximizing Indemnification Rights,” August 2020
- “Best Practices for E-mail and Other Electronic Communications,” August 2020
- “E-mail Best Practices,” November 2018
- “Three Things Inside Counsel Should Know About Insurance: Avoiding Traps and Seizing Opportunities in Several Common Situations,” 27 June 2018
- “Transferring and Mitigating Risk Through Additional Insured Coverage,” 17 April 2017 and 30 May 2017
- “Drones (and Risk) are in the Air: Compliance, Insurance & Privacy Issues,” RIMS Pittsburgh Chapter Session, 15 November 2016
- “Insurance Coverage for Cyber Risks – A Programmatic Perspective,” Cracking the Code: Cybersecurity for Tomorrow, co-hosted by K&L Gates and Carnegie Mellon University, 10 November 2016
- “A Dangerous World: Insurance Coverage and Cybersecurity,” New Horizons for Unmanned Aircraft: Innovation in the Evergreen State, co-hosted by K&L Gates LLP and the Washington State Department of Commerce, 19 September 2016
- “A Dangerous World: Insurance Coverage and Cybersecurity,” Reaching New Heights: An Overview of the Unmanned Aircraft Atmosphere for 2016, co-hosted by K&L Gates and Consumer Technology Association, 3 June 2016

- "Cyber Liability – Hot Topic: Unmanned Aircraft Systems: Insurance Implications," RIMS Pittsburgh Chapter Session, 5 April 2016
- "Modular Construction: Insurance Challenges," EPC Contracting Issues in the Oil & Gas Industry Seminar, co-hosted by K&L Gates and Marsh, 2 November 2015
- "Wrestling With Retroactive Reinsurance," Insurance Coverage Training Series (K&L Gates), 19 March 2015
- "Insurance Coverage for Construction Risks," Insurance Coverage Training Series (K&L Gates), 8 January 2014
- "Cyber Risk and Insurance," Insurance Coverage Training Series (K&L Gates), 5 September 2012

EDUCATION

- J.D., University of Pittsburgh School of Law, *(magna cum laude; University of Pittsburgh Law Review, Research Editor; Order of the Coif)*
- B.A., University of Delaware, *(cum laude)*

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of Pennsylvania
- United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin
- United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- January 2026, 14th Annual "Under the Wire" CLE Webinar
- 16 May 2023, American Law Institute Vote on Medical Monitoring Could Spur Increased "No-Injury" Claims
- 25 January 2023, Litigation Minute: New Year's (Dispute) Resolutions
- 13 December 2022, Litigation Minute: Year in Review—Trending Topics Across the 2022 Litigation Spectrum
- November 2022, November 2022 Accolades
- 28 June 2022, Litigation Minute: Has the Supreme Court Left ESG Class Actions a Leg to Stand On?
- 15 June 2022, U.S. Supreme Court Narrows Scope of 28 U.S.C. § 1782 to Proceedings Before "Governmental or Intergovernmental Adjudicative Bodies"

- 7 June 2022, Litigation Minute: The "E": Environmental Regulation and Ethos
- 26 May 2022, Arbitration World: U.S. Cases and International Arbitration — International Arbitration Clauses in Insurance Policies: Are They Valid in States With Anti-Arbitration Insurance Statutes?
- 23 May 2022, Arbitration World: U.S. Supreme Court to Address Prejudice Requirements For Waiver of Arbitration Agreements
- 29 April 2022, Arbitration World: U.S. Cases and International Arbitration — U.S. Supreme Court Set to Decide Section 1782 Circuit Split
- 15 April 2022, Look At Me, Not Through Me: Supreme Court Limits Federal Jurisdiction for Post-Arbitration Award Petitions
- 24 March 2022, U.S. Supreme Court Hears Oral Argument on Circuit Split Over Scope of 28 U.S.C. § 1782 for Obtaining Discovery in International Arbitrations
- 11 March 2022, U.S. Supreme Court to Review Circuit Split Over Scope of 28 U.S.C. § 1782 for Obtaining Discovery in International Arbitrations
- February 2022, February 2022 Accolades
- 7 February 2022, Litigation Minute: International Arbitration Clauses in Insurance Policies: Are They Valid in States With Anti-Arbitration Insurance Statutes?
- 20 September 2021, Litigation Minute: Drafting International Arbitration Provisions for Cross-Border Manufacturing Contracts
- 29 June 2021, Where's the Harm in Class Certification? The United States Supreme Court Confirms: It Must Be in Plaintiffs' Evidence
- 15 September 2020, Litigation Minute: Drafting Pre-litigation Demand Letters
- 25 March 2020, COVID-19: There’s No Place Like Home: What GCs Need You to Remember While Working Remotely
- 8 August 2018, Drones (and Insurable Risk) are in the Real Estate Air
- 13 July 2017, Who Will Be Handling Your Claims Under Berkshire Hathaway’s Latest Retroactive Reinsurance Deals?
- 10 November 2016, Common Contractual Battlegrounds: Four Significant, But Often Overlooked, Provisions in Domestic Commercial Contracts
- 2 November 2015, EPC Contracting Issues in the Oil & Gas Industry

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- "Exploring opportunities, trends and risks in the manufacturing industry: Q&A with women leaders at K&L Gates LLP," *Pittsburgh Business Times,* 1 August 2023

- "ALI's Medical-Monitoring Proposal May Encourage Claims," *Law360,* 28 June 2023
- Rebutting the "Agency" Defense to Tortious Interference Claims, *Insurance Coverage Litigation*, Spring 2015, Vol. 25, No. 2, 11 August 2015
- Rebutting the "Agency" Defense to Tortious Interference Claims against National Indemnity Company and Resolute Management, paper submitted for ABA Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee Seminar, February 2015

NEWS & EVENTS

- 4 June 2026, K&L Gates Receives Nearly 235 Firm, Individual Rankings in 2026 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 2 February 2026, Nearly 50 K&L Gates Lawyers Recognized on *Thomson Reuters* Stand-out Lawyers List
- 11 March 2025, Nearly 50 K&L Gates Lawyers Receive Global Recognition in *Thomson Reuters*' Stand-out Lawyers List
- 25 April 2024, "Under the Wire" CLE Seminar-Navigating International Waters: Cross-Border M&A, International Arbitration, and Construction Disputes
- May 2023, K&L Gates Partners Host Women in Manufacturing Event
- 16 May 2023, Women in Manufacturing: Navigating 2023 Disruptors
- 18 August 2022, More Than 350 K&L Gates Lawyers Named Among 2023 Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch
- 6 June 2019, K&L Gates Earns Practice and Lawyer Recognitions in 2019 *Legal 500 United States* Guide
- 21 February 2019, K&L Gates Names 24 New Partners Across Four Continents

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Commercial Disputes
- Class Action Defense
- Construction and Infrastructure
- Industrial Incidents
- Insurance Recovery and Counseling
- International Arbitration
- Mass Tort
- Product Liability
- Real Estate Litigation

- Transactional Disputes

INDUSTRIES

- Aerospace and Defense
- Energy
- General Manufacturing
- Manufacturing
- Metals Manufacturing and Fabrications
- Specialty Chemicals

EMERGING ISSUES

- Data Centers and Energy Intensive Infrastructure
- Emerging Contaminants

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Select Current and Recent Engagements

- Represent major expandable polystyrene manufacturer asserting claims for breaches of representations and warranties and tort-based claims in connection with its purchase of the membership interests in a limited liability company.
- Represent a waste management and renewable energy company in matters involving claims of breach of fiduciary duty and in areas regarding the company's internal affairs.
- Represent major chemical company in defense of claims arising under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act ("CERCLA") and Resources Conservation and Recovery Act ("RCRA") pending in federal court.
- Represent major chemical company in connection with the defense of civil liability and damage claims arising from a series of well-publicized chemical fires at a Texas facility in the wake of Hurricane Harvey in September 2017, including the defense in federal court of a class action involving upwards of 30,000 individuals who allege a variety of personal and property injuries and a Texas state-court MDL proceeding involving more than 750 plaintiffs, who were allegedly injured and/or suffered property damage during the fires.
- Represent utility company in defense of breach of contract and declaratory judgment claims in connection with the acquisition of a municipal authority.

- Represent manufacturer and energy services company in defense of tort-based personal injury lawsuits alleged by employees of subsidiary companies.
- Represent aerospace products manufacturer in ICC arbitration involving claims of breach of a long-term supply agreement.
- Represent manufacturer in domestic arbitrations involving breach of contract claims stemming from a pricing dispute.
- Represent engineered metals manufacturer and aluminum manufacturer in commercial contract, product liability, and personal injury cases in a variety of US jurisdictions and in domestic and international disputes.

Select Recent Trial Experience

- Represent major chemical company in week-long class certification hearing in federal court, including lead advocacy for arguments against Rule 23(b)(2) injunctive classes sought and *Daubert* motions (including cross-examination) for a variety of experts.
- Represent a major materials supplier in three inter-related but unconsolidated ICC arbitrations (seated in London, Paris, and Geneva) in successfully defending claims brought against it by a major manufacturer of commercial passenger and military aircraft, related to the supply of alleged defective products, in which the claims alleged (for damages and an indemnity) were quantified at over US$1 billion. The defenses advanced on behalf of our client ultimately prevailed with a favorable costs award against the unsuccessful claimant.
- Represent major aerospace materials supplier in international arbitration before the Arbitration Institute of the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce (SCC) in defense of breach of contract claims regarding pricing.
- Represent a major energy services company in a London-based arbitration against an insurer that refused to indemnify the company for its portion of a US$1 billion settlement entered into to resolve lawsuits arising out of an explosion and fire that occurred onboard the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig in 2010.
- Represent a major aluminum company in an ICC arbitration brought by a Dutch mining company over claims related to the development of a bauxite mine in Suriname.
- Represent policyholder in AAA and ICDR arbitrations regarding insurers' breach of asbestos coverage-in-place agreements.