Kristin A. Linsley

Partner

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San Francisco



Kristin A. Linsley is a partner in Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher's San Francisco office, where she is a member of the Litigation Department. Kristin specializes in complex business and appellate litigation across a spectrum of areas, including water and energy law, cybersecurity and technology law, international and transnational law, data and privacy, and complex financial litigation. She has earned a national reputation for achieving favorable results for her clients in high-profile complex matters, and is noted for the strength of her legal analysis and the depth and breadth of her multinational litigation experience.

In the area of business litigation, Kristin has defended clients in high-stakes litigation involving financial issues arising from the mortgage crisis, commercial/contract disputes between companies, securities fraud and RICO violations, technology, telecommunications, and privacy issues, consumer class actions, intellectual property, and defense and aerospace-related issues.

Kristin has a strong general regulatory practice, advising clients on compliance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations, and also devising and implementing legal challenges to such laws and regulations where necessary. She also has broad experience in the area of data privacy, cybersecurity, and technology law, representing companies such as Facebook and Expedia with respect to some of their most challenging data security issues. Currently, Kristin is part of a Gibson Dunn team representing Facebook in connection with the recent Cambridge Analytica events. And she has represented Expedia subsidiary HomeAway in a series of challenges to state and local ordinances that regulate the business of short-term property rentals. Kristin and her team recently secured a preliminary injunction against such an ordinance passed by the City of New York on the ground that the City's requirement that the company turn over large volumes of consumer data violated the Fourth Amendment. Kristin has handled such challenges in a wide range of matters in both federal and state court.

Kristin also has an active practice in the area of water and energy law. Currently, she represents one of California's oldest public water and energy districts in a challenge to a county ordinance that regulates credits for private use of solar energy. She previously represented that same district in a groundbreaking action challenging the State of California's failure to comply with its obligations attendant to an historic agreement to transfer a portion of the district's Colorado River waters to San Diego. Kristin has worked actively with the district's board of directors in both sets of actions.

Kristin also has an active appellate practice representing clients in a wide range of industries before the federal and state appellate courts and the U.S. Supreme Court. Kristin has briefed and argued appeals on a wide range of matters, including cases involving complex business transactions, jurisdictional and procedural issues, class actions, and telecommunications issues.

Capabilities

Litigation
Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice
Appellate and Constitutional Law
Class Actions
Consumer Protection
Crisis Management
Financial Institutions
Insurance and Reinsurance
Mass Torts and Product Liability
Privacy, Cybersecurity, and Data Innovation
Securities Regulation and Corporate Governance
Tech and Innovation
Technology Litigation
Transnational Litigation

Credentials

Education

Harvard University - 1988 Juris Doctor
Harvard University - 1982 Bachelor of Arts

Admissions

New York Bar
Massachusetts Bar
California Bar

Clerkships

US Supreme Court, Hon. Justice Antonin Scalia, 1989 - 1990
US Court of Appeals, DC Circuit, Hon. Judge Douglas H. Ginsburg, 1988 - 1989

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On the international/transnational side, Kristin has spent over two decades litigating complex international law issues arising from clients' overseas operations, including claims brought under the Alien Tort Statute. She also has handled multiple actions seeking to impose liability on companies under the Anti-Terrorism Act based on claimed "material support" for International terrorist activities. Kristin is a frequent writer and speaker on these issues.

Kristin also has broad corporate governance experience, counseling a broad range of clients and their boards of directors on matters of corporate governance, directors' responsibilities, transactions, and similar matters.

Kristin also was appointed in 2008 by the U.S. Supreme Court to serve as a Special Master in an original case before the court, *South Carolina v. North Carolina*, Original No. 138, the first woman to hold that post. She has translated that experience into an expertise in water law, including representing a California municipality and holder of significant Colorado River water rights in a petition to the State Water Resources Control Board.

Kristin's clients have included Facebook, Bank of America, Fidelity Investments, Archer-Daniels-Midland, the Lawrence Livermore National Labs, The Boeing Company, Northrop, Tessera, Inc., Financial Engines, and Occidental Petroleum.

Kristin is frequently recognized as a top legal practitioner in California and across the United States. Her recent accolades include:

- *Benchmark Litigation* – California Litigation Star (2025-2026)
- *Best Lawyers* – The Best Lawyers in America (2021-2026)
- *Lawdragon* – 500 Leading Litigators in America (2023-2026)
- *BTI Consulting Group* – Client Service All-Star MVP (2023, 2024)
- *The Recorder* – Women Leaders in Tech Law (2018, 2023)
- *Daily Journal* – Top Cyber Lawyers (2020)
- *Law360* – Technology MVP (2020)
- *Women in Business Law Awards* – Cybersecurity Attorney of the Year (2020)
- *National Law Journal* – Technology Trailblazer (2019)
- *Daily Journal* – Top Cyber/Artificial Intelligence Lawyers (2018, 2019)
- *Daily Journal* – Top Women Lawyers in California (2017, 2018)
- *Center for Women in Law* – Power Players: Women Leading in Law (2018)
- *National Law Journal* – Outstanding Women Lawyers (2015)
- *L?aw360* – Female Powerbroker (2014)

Kristin is a frequent writer and speaker on a range of legal issues, including international and transnational litigation matters and original jurisdiction and water allocation disputes between states. She has spoken at the ABA Environmental Law Section conference in Indianapolis, the American Constitution Society, Duke University, the Federalist Society, Georgetown University Law Center, Pepperdine University, UC Hastings, UC Irvine School of Law, UCLA and Rutgers University, among others.

Kristin served as a law clerk for Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia in the 1989 Term and for Judge D.H. Ginsburg of the D.C. Circuit in 1988-89. She graduated *magna cum laude* from Harvard Law School in 1988. She received an A.B., *magna cum laude,* in 1982 from Harvard University, where she was captain of the women's cross country team and a member of the All-East and All-Ivy teams for track and field and cross country.

In 2023, Kristin was appointed to serve a three-year term on the Advisory Board of the

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Ninth Circuit, which advises Chief Circuit Judge Mary H. Murguia regarding proposed matters relating to effective administration of the courts in the Ninth Circuit.

Kristin is admitted to practice in the U.S. Supreme Court, the 9th Circuit, the Federal Circuit and the federal and state courts in California and New York. She is a member of the ABA Litigation Section.

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