

Helgi C. Walker

Partner

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Washington, D.C.

Helgi Walker is a partner in Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher's Washington, D.C. office. She is co-chair of the firm's global Litigation Practice Group and recently served as a member of the firm's Executive Committee. She is also co-chair of the Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice Group and a member of the Appellate and Constitutional Law Group. *Chambers USA* describes her as "dynamite in the courtroom and a forceful oral advocate," "a brilliant legal mind," and counsel with "excellent judgment" and "a reputation for excellence."

Helgi's work focuses on appellate, regulatory and complex litigation matters. She has extensive experience in appellate challenges to agency rulemakings and in other high-stakes commercial litigation.

Helgi was elected as a Fellow of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers, which is limited to 500 lawyers nationwide. She also is a member of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Administrative Law & Government Litigation Advisory Committee. By appointment of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, Helgi served as the Chair of the Court's Advisory Committee on Procedures from 2017-2024. From 2010 to 2015, she was a Public Member of the Council of the Administrative Conference of the United States, which is composed of leading authorities on administrative law.

Helgi worked in the White House Counsel's Office as Associate Counsel to President George W. Bush from 2001 to 2003.

Helgi clerked for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas from 1995 to 1996 and Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson III of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit from 1994 to 1995.

Helgi is listed as a leading lawyer in Appellate Law, Telecom, Broadcast & Satellite, and Commercial Litigation by *Chambers USA*. In its 2020 competition, *The American Lawyer* named Gibson Dunn the winner of the [Litigation Department of the Year](#) contest and a finalist in the White Collar/Regulatory category that includes her practice areas. In 2011, *The American Lawyer* selected her as one of the "45 Under 45," "best of the best among young women lawyers" in the United States. *The National Law Journal* named her one of "Washington's Most Influential Women Lawyers" in 2011. *Washingtonian* magazine has repeatedly recognized her as one of D.C.'s "Top Lawyers" in its biennial rankings, including in the Supreme Court (2022) and Communications (2024) categories, and among "The Power 100" of "influential players running Washington and the world" (2014-2015).

In addition, she was:

- Named *The American Lawyer's* "Litigator of the Week" runner-up for successful challenge to the SEC's dealer rule (2024).



Capabilities

Appellate and Constitutional Law
Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice
Consumer Protection
Litigation
Trials

Credentials

Education

University of Virginia - 1994 Juris Doctor
University of Virginia - 1988 Bachelor of Arts

Admissions

District of Columbia Bar

Clerkships

US Supreme Court, Hon. Clarence Thomas, 1995 - 1996
US Court of Appeals, 4th Circuit, Hon. J. Harvie Wilkinson III, 1994 - 1995

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- Recognized by *Thomson Reuters* as an “Outstanding Lawyer,” a global award for one of the three most outstanding lawyers clients have worked with in the last three years (2024-2025).
- Named one of *Benchmark Litigation’s* “Top 250 Women in Litigation” in the country (2021-2024).
- Named by *Lawdragon* as a “Lawdragon Legend” (2021), one of only 32 lawyers nationwide recognized as “the biggest stars” who have demonstrated “sustained excellence and endurance.”
- Named by *Client Choice Awards* as the winner of the District of Columbia Litigation category (2018).
- Named by *Law360* as a Telecommunications MVP (2016), observing that her work “has spanned the industry” including a “big win” for broadcasters in “a major ownership case.”
- Named by *Law360* as an Appellate MVP (2015), describing her as a “go-to counsel for high-stakes appellate challenges of federal agency actions” and “leading cutting-edge litigation for a range of industries.”
- Named *The American Lawyer’s* “Litigator of the Week” for her win on behalf of Ford Motor Company before the *en banc* Sixth Circuit in a case involving telecommuting as a reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (2015).
- Named *The American Lawyer’s* “Litigator of the Week” for her win on behalf of Verizon in the “major appeals court ruling” overturning the FCC’s “net neutrality” regulation of Internet service providers (2014).
- Named *The American Lawyer’s* “Litigator of the Week” for obtaining a “blockbuster appellate decision” for Comcast in a challenge to the FCC’s first “net neutrality” decision (2010).
- Named by *The Legal 500 US* as a “recommended lawyer” in Telecom Litigation and Regulatory, described as “first rate,” possessing “an ability to untangle the regulatory problems but still retain an eye on the commercial current,” and “an absolutely fantastic appellate lawyer who is hard to beat” (2007-2013).

Representative Matters:

- Represented the Dewberry Group in U.S. Supreme Court in 9-0 victory in appeal regarding trademark remedies.
- Represented the National Association of Broadcasters and other media and newspaper industry parties as lead counsel in the U.S. Supreme Court in defense of the FCC’s repeal or modification of restrictive and outdated local media ownership rules, winning 9-0. Now representing the National Association of Broadcasters in the latest challenge to the media ownership rules in U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.
- Represented the National Association of Private Fund Managers, and other private funds trade associations, in winning Fifth Circuit challenge to SEC rule asserting proscriptive authority over private funds, resulting in vacatur of the entire rule.
- Represented the National Association of Private Fund Managers, and other private funds trade associations, in successful N.D. Texas challenge to SEC’s “dealer” rule, resulting in vacatur of entire rule.
- Representing T-Mobile in D.C. Circuit appeal of FCC enforcement action imposing \$80 million penalty regarding location data.
- Representing Amrock, a sister company of Quicken Loans, in Texas Supreme Court appeal of \$706 million jury verdict for alleged trade secret misappropriation and related appeals regarding the sealing of trial exhibits, after successfully obtaining reversal of the entire verdict and trial court’s sealing orders in state court of appeals—including several wins in the Texas Supreme Court in the sealing

appeals.

- Representing Bank of America in defending against FDIC lawsuit seeking alleged underpayment to the Federal Deposit Insurance Fund of more than \$1 billion in D.C. district court and asserting counterclaim under the Administrative Procedure Act seeking to invalidate the underlying FDIC regulations.
- Represented CTIA-The Wireless Association in the D.C. Circuit in successfully upholding the FCC's "Restoring Internet Freedom Order" repealing the "net neutrality" regime and recently in overturning the subsequent reinstatement of those rules in the Sixth Circuit.
- Represented Verizon in successful D.C. Circuit appeal of the FCC's order formally adopting "net neutrality" rules, obtaining vacatur of the rules.
- Represented Comcast in successful D.C. Circuit appeal of the FCC's first "net neutrality" decision, securing vacatur of that decision.*
- Represented PHH Corporation in D.C. Circuit appeal of the CFPB's actions against the company under the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974—the first appellate challenge to a CFPB enforcement proceeding—and successfully obtained a stay of the agency order pending appeal and victory on the merits in a historic separation of powers ruling at the panel level, ultimately prevailing before the en banc court on administrative law grounds and securing vacatur of \$109 million penalty.
- Appointed by the U.S. Supreme Court to brief and argue the case in defense of the judgment below in *Welch v. United States*, involving the retroactivity of new rules on habeas review.

* Matter handled prior to joining Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP.

Helgi graduated in 1994 from the University of Virginia School of Law, where she was a member of the Order of the Coif and Raven Society and served as Executive Editor of the *Virginia Law Review*. She also received the Robert E. Goldsten Award and John M. Olin Prize in Law and Economics.

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