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Lauren K. Handelsman Partner

Lauren Handelsman's practice focuses on high-stakes commercial disputes and internal and government investigations. She represents public and private companies, partnerships, funds, and individuals across various industries—including financial services, technology, healthcare, manufacturing, and energy—in civil litigation and arbitration matters involving significant financial, regulatory, and other exposure.

Lauren is a seasoned trial and appellate advocate with extensive experience trying cases in federal and state courts and in arbitration forums, including the Southern District of New York, the New York Supreme Court Commercial Division, AAA, and JAMS. Her investigations practice includes civil and regulatory inquiries, often involving heightened public scrutiny, and includes matters before the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Department of Justice, and state Attorneys General. She regularly advises senior executives and boards of directors on litigation and regulatory risk, disclosure obligations, and remediation strategies.

Before joining the firm, Lauren practiced at a leading international law firm, where she handled sophisticated domestic and cross-border disputes and investigations. She also taught Legal Writing as an Adjunct Professor of Law at Fordham University School of Law.

Representative Matters

- Secured dismissal of all claims against a financial services company in an action brought by a customer claiming damages related to fraudulent payments. The dismissal came following a merits hearing in JAMS arbitration, where we defeated claims brought under statutory, quasi contract, and tort theories.
- Represented a healthcare company in an investigation of potential regulatory violations stemming from remuneration practices that resulted in a favorable settlement with federal regulators in advance of any government litigation.
- Serve as counsel for a former bank employee in a multi-party litigation alleging civil RICO, fraud, aiding and abetting fraud, and conversion claims arising out of the purported unauthorized liquidation of shares pledged as collateral under a margin loan agreement.
- Secured favorable settlements for multiple clients facing exposure related to fraudulent wire transfers to and from commercial and consumer banks.
- Secured a favorable settlement for a company and its founder in a dispute with a former commercial partner over alleged violations of non-solicitation agreement.
- Represented an alternative investment firm and its current and former employees in DOJ, SEC, and other regulatory securities fraud investigations, including representation at trial in the Southern District of New York in a case brought by the SEC.

Representative Matters (continued)

- Successfully defended a global manufacturing and engineering company in a dispute with an investment bank over a financial advisory fee, securing both a dismissal of a breach of contract claim in the First Department and a verdict in our client's favor on the remaining unjust enrichment claim following a trial in New York Supreme Court, Commercial Division.
- Secured a complete win in a AAA arbitration and dismissal of all claims against our corporate client alleging breach of a software license agreement.
- Secured a no-action decision from FINRA for the Chief Compliance Officer of Insurance and Annuity program for a major insurer following an investigation.

Honors & Affiliations

- Recipient of the 2020 Fordham Law Alumni Association Rising Star Award in the Private Practice category
- Selection by the New York Law Journal as a 2016 Rising Star
- Repeated selection as a New York Super Lawyer for Business Litigation
- Recipient of The Legal Aid Society Pro Bono Public Service Award, 2012-2013
- New York City Bar, International Commercial Disputes Committee
- Federal Bar Council
- New York City Bar Association
- Legal Advisory Council, Sanctuary for Families

Education

- Fordham University Law School, J.D., magna cum laude, 2006; elected to Order of the Coif
- Recipient of the Fordham Law Alumni Association Medal in Constitutional Law, the Walter B. Kennedy Award, and the Legal Writing Award
- Managing Editor, Fordham Law Review (Vol. 74)
- Brown University, B.A. in American Civilization, 1998

Clerkships

- Honorable Denny Chin, District Judge, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, 2007-2008

Bar & Court Admissions

- New York
- Connecticut
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit