

## PARTNER

# KRISTEN L. ZAEHRINGER

*Kristen Zaehring represents a diverse variety of corporate and individual clients in complex commercial cases, arbitrations, mediations, and before regulatory agencies. Kristen's practice consists of three primary areas: (1) business and contractual disputes, including matters for health care providers, (2) compliance and ethics, and (3) employment law.*

Kristen serves on the Firm's Ethics and Loss Prevention Committee and was appointed by the Judges of the District of Connecticut to serve on the Federal Grievance Committee, a committee of lawyers that hears grievance complaints against lawyers admitted to practice in federal court. She is also a past co-chair of the Federal Practice Section of the Connecticut Bar Association and a member of the Connecticut Bar Association's Judicial Subcommittee to the COVID-19 Task Force. She previously served on the District of Connecticut's Local Civil Rules Advisory Committee, a group of lawyers charged with submitting to the federal judges an analysis of the procedural and local rules for federal cases in the District of Connecticut.

Kristen has wide-ranging experience in federal and state courts in Connecticut and New York. She has litigated cases involving a variety of disputes, including:

- Class action lawsuits
- Shareholder derivative actions
- Qui tam actions involving health care providers
- Health care provider disputes
- Corporate and partner dissolutions and disputes
- Claims for contribution and indemnification
- Health care insurance litigation
- Securities fraud
- Breach of contract and guaranty agreements
- Insurance coverage disputes
- Commercial lease evictions and breaches
- Commercial mortgage foreclosures
- Business torts asserted among members of closely-held business (including fraud, theft, and breach of fiduciary duty)
- Consumer fraud (including unfair trade practices, violation of federal and state credit reporting laws, violation of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, and violation of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act)
- Environmental enforcement actions
- Environmental Disputes
- Claims against attorneys for ethical violations
- Employment discrimination and retaliation
- Wrongful termination
- Professional negligence
- Violation of wage and hour law
- Violation of non-competition and confidentiality agreements
- Enforcement of easements and other covenants restricting the use of real estate

Kristen regularly represents clients before various administrative agencies including: the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the United States Department of Labor, the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights & Opportunities, and the Connecticut Department of Labor. Kristen also drafts and provides advice on numerous human resources matters, including: employment contracts, restrictive covenants, severance agreements, and the implementation of employment manuals, policies and procedures.

Kristen is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the George Washington University. Upon graduation from the Quinnipiac University School of Law, Kristen worked as a law clerk for the Honorable Dominic J. Squatrito, U.S.D.J. (2005-2007). Prior to joining Murtha Cullina, Kristen worked at Zeldes, Needle & Cooper, P.C., in Bridgeport Connecticut



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### BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

Connecticut

New York

U.S. District Court, District of Connecticut

U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York

U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit

United States Supreme Court

### EDUCATION

Quinnipiac University School of Law, J.D., magna cum laude

George Washington University, B.A., summa cum laude

### PRACTICES & INDUSTRIES

Litigation

Business Litigation

Attorney Professional Liability

Labor and Employment

Insurance Recovery

(2007-2013). Since 2013, Kristen has also served as an attorney volunteer at annual student mock trials sponsored by the District of Connecticut's Public Outreach Committee. Kristen has represented veterans and incarcerated individuals on a pro bono basis and, in 2016, she received the District of Connecticut's Pro Bono Award for her work on a prisoner rights case involving claims brought under the 8th Amendment. She is also a member of the Board of Directors of Friends of New Haven Legal Assistance Association. Kristen holds an AV rating with Martindale-Hubbell, is a fellow of the American Bar Foundation, and is a past officer of the Raymond Baldwin Inn of Court.

### Memberships

- District of Connecticut Federal Grievance Committee
- District of Connecticut Local Civil Rules Advisory Committee
- American Bar Foundation, Fellow
- Connecticut Bar Association - (past Co-Chair of the Federal Practice Section), Member of the Federal Practice Section's Executive Committee and Civil Rules Committee
- Inns of Court
- New York State Bar Association
- Judicial Subcommittee of the Connecticut Bar Association's COVID-19 Task Force

### Speaking Engagements

- Moderated: "Using Zoom in the Federal Courts" for the Federal Practice Section, May 7, 2020
- Co-Presented: Written Discovery, Hartford County Bar Association, January 28, 2020
- Moderated: Federal Court Discovery A to Z, Federal Practice Section, March 13, 2019
- Co-Presented: Introduction to Connecticut Civil Practice, Hartford County Bar Association, January 27, 2019
- Pro Bono Appointments in Federal Court: Tips From the Trenches Parts I and II, Connecticut Legal Conference, June 11, 2018
- Federal Practice 101 CLE, Connecticut Bar Association Young Lawyers Section, April 24, 2018
- CLE Introduction to Connecticut Civil Practice Series: Written Discovery, Hartford County Bar Association Seminar, January 11, 2018
- Important Developments for Employers with Employees in Connecticut, Murtha Cullina's Employment Law Seminar, October 13, 2017
- Connecticut Bar Association Labor and Employment Section meeting, January 19, 2017
- Virtual Reality: Revisiting Telework in the Digital Age, Murtha Cullina's Employment Law Seminar, September 30, 2016
- The Essentials of Federal Practice CLE, Connecticut Bar Association, May 10, 2016
- Rediscovering Ediscovery: How to Get and Use it Under the Revised Rules, Connecticut Bar Association, January 20, 2016
- What Working Life is Like in a Law Firm, Quinnipiac University School of Law, January 8, 2016
- Pre-Employment Background Checks, Leaves of Absence, and Religious Accommodations, Murtha Cullina's Employment Law Seminar, October 2014
- New Twists on Discrimination Laws, Murtha Cullina's Employment Law Seminar, October 2013

### Articles

- Co-Author, "Book Review: Business and Commercial Litigation in Federal Courts, Fourth Edition," Connecticut Bar Journal Volume 91 No. 2, March 2018
- Co-Author, "U.S. District Court District of Connecticut Filings Checklist," Practical Law, June 2016.

### Recognition

- Holds an AV® Preeminent™ Peer Rating from Martindale-Hubbell
- Listed in Connecticut Super Lawyers® in the area of Civil Litigation - Defense, 2020
- James W. Cooper Fellow of the Connecticut Bar Foundation
- Pro Bono Award for the District of Connecticut, 2016
- Named one of Fairfield County's Top 40 Business People under the Age of 40 in 2015
- Connecticut Law Tribune 2015 New Leaders in the Law
- 2015 Leadership Fairfield County Program
- Listed as New England Super Lawyers® Rising Star in the area of Civil Litigation, 2014 - 2017
- Listed as Connecticut Super Lawyers® Rising Star in the areas of Employment & Labor Litigation, Civil Litigation Defense and Business Litigation, 2013 - 2019

### Community Activities

- Town of Hamden, Connecticut – Town Council Member
- Friends of New Haven Legal Assistance Association – Board Member
- Public Outreach Committee of the U.S. District Court for District of Connecticut, Member
- Quinnipiac University School of Law Alumni Association – Executive Board

### Prior Experience:

- Law Clerk to the Honorable Dominic J. Squatrito, United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut (2005-2007)

*With offices throughout Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York, Murtha Cullina LLP offers a full range of legal services to meet the local, regional and national needs of our clients. Our practice encompasses litigation, regulatory and transactional representation of businesses, governmental units, non-profit organizations and individuals.*

