James K. Trefil

Counsel

Richmond

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OVERVIEW

James is counsel in the firm's Consumer Financial Services practice, with a primary focus on financial services litigation. His practice includes the representation of clients in federal and state court, both at the trial and appellate level, with a focus on areas of complex litigation, financial services litigation, and consumer litigation. James has represented clients within these areas in a wide variety of litigation matters involving class actions, contracts, torts, and federal and state consumer protection laws.

James has experience in all phases of complex litigation, including serving as lead trial counsel in federal and state court, where he has secured both jury verdicts and defense judgments for his clients. He has also served as counsel in successful appeals before the Supreme Court of Delaware and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Before joining the firm, James was a litigation partner in the Washington-based firm, where his practice included securities and intellectual property litigation, employment defense, and noncompetition litigation, as well as general commercial and business litigation. While at the firm, James also served as court-appointed custody and visitation dispute mediator for the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

James has also served as special counsel for the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight with regard to a regulatory enforcement action against Freddie Mac, and as special counsel working on behalf of the Claims Administrator for the Court's Settlement Program arising from the BP/Deepwater Horizon oil spill multidistrict litigation.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Counsel for major pharmaceutical corporation in securities class action litigation, where he successfully defended against the plaintiff's appeal in oral argument before the Delaware Supreme Court.
- Counsel for a number of universities, law schools, and medical schools in the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area, successfully defending them against employment discrimination litigation arising from the tenure review process.
- Counsel for a number of technology corporations in employment-related litigation arising from noncompetition covenants.
- Counsel for a number of clients in administrative matters relating to intellectual property issues before the

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Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN).

- Counsel for a major pharmaceutical corporation in action seeking preliminary injunctive relief arising from competitor's unfair competition and trade practices with respect to the marketing and distribution of thyroid medication.
- Counsel for a major electronics manufacturer in preliminary injunction proceedings relating to unfair competition and breach of noncompete provisions in distributorship agreements.
- Counsel for a major medical products manufacturer in trade secret litigation.

TOP AREAS OF FOCUS

- Class Action
- Consumer Financial Services
- Financial Services Litigation

ALL AREAS OF FOCUS

- Class Action
- Consumer Financial Services
- Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA)
- Financial Services
- Financial Services Litigation
- Litigation + Trial
- Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA)

PROFESSIONAL/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Virginia State Bar
- District of Columbia Bar
- Board of directors, Embrace Richmond

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Director of operations, CARITAS Works, 2008-2009
- Special counsel, Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight, 2004-2006

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

EDUCATION

- University of Virginia School of Law, J.D., 1993
- University of Virginia, M.A., 1987
- Princeton University, A.B., 1985

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Virginia

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Speaker, "Consumer Financial Services Year in Review and A Look Ahead Webinar Series: Litigating Consumer Claims in a Post-Regulation F World," Troutman Pepper, March 9, 2022.
- Speaker, "Game of Phones: Current Trends in Collection Calls under the TCPA, FDCPA, and other Regulatory Frameworks," Clear Law Institute Webinar, August 17, 2017.

PUBLICATIONS

- Co-author, "Troutman Pepper Publishes *2023 Consumer Financial Services Year in Review and A Look Ahead* ," *Troutman Pepper*, February 1, 2024.
- Co-author, "2021 Consumer Financial Services Year in Review & A Look Ahead," *Troutman Pepper*, January 28, 2022.
- Co-author, "A Chainsaw, Rather than a Scalpel: Supreme Court Holds Telephony Must Include Random or Sequential Number Generator to Qualify as ATDS under TCPA," *Troutman Pepper*, April 1, 2021.
- Co-author, "2019 Consumer Financial Services Year in Review & A Look Ahead," *Troutman Sanders*, February 24, 2020.
- Co-author, "2018 Consumer Financial Services Year in Review & A Look Ahead," *Troutman Sanders*, January 28, 2019.
- Co-author, "Annual Report: 2017 Consumer Financial Services Year in Review and a Look Ahead," January 10, 2018.