Mary Weeks

Partner

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Mary leads the firm's Securities Litigation Practice Group. She vigorously defends and resolves high-stakes securities litigation and shareholder disputes and manages internal investigations for corporations, officers, and directors. Mary's efficient approach and lengthy track record of early-stage resolutions in key jurisdictions help clients effectively manage and mitigate risk.

OVERVIEW

Mary defends clients facing allegations involving securities fraud, breach of fiduciary duty, corporate governance, and other shareholder derivative and securities class actions brought under Sections 10(b), 14(a), and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and state law. Her straightforward approach to evaluating and resolving claims has earned her loyal clients and dozens of early dismissals in critical venues such as the Delaware Court of Chancery, the Southern District of New York, and other federal courts within the Second, Third, and Ninth Circuits.

As head of the securities litigation practice group, Mary leads a core team of securities litigators who have refined an efficient, time-tested process for handling all aspects of her clients' matters. She and her team have handled the full range of complex securities litigation, shareholder derivative litigation, dissenters' rights actions and appraisal proceedings, as well as stockholder disputes before the Delaware Court of Chancery. Her clients benefit from her leadership and hands-on management of every matter, drawing from deep experience defending market leaders in sectors such as automotive, manufacturing, health care, life sciences, and early-stage biopharmaceuticals.

Mary leads and manages board of directors special committee and internal investigations, as well as regulatory investigations, including with the SEC, DOJ, and other government agencies.

Mary's background includes trial-to-verdict experience in areas beyond securities litigation. She also serves as Troutman Pepper Locke's firmwide hiring partner, leading the firm's Regional Recruiting Committees.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Federal Securities Class Action and Merger & Acquisition Litigation

- Representing a high-growth national retailer in a securities class action alleging violations of federal securities laws, including Sections 10(b) and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 by issuing a series of false or misleading statements.

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- Argued and prevailed on a motion to dismiss with prejudice for Section 14(a) and 20(a) federal securities claims against a former corporate officer arising from a SPAC merger with a Canadian manufacturer of zero-emission commercial vehicles. *Bouchard-A v. N. Genesis Acquisition Corp.*, 2025 WL 1808469 (S.D.N.Y. July 1, 2025).
- Obtained a complete dismissal with prejudice of a securities class action filed against a pharmaceutical company in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania involving alleged disclosures made in connection with the company's efforts to gain FDA approval of a COVID-19 vaccine, and related derivative litigation. The decision was affirmed by the Third Circuit. *In re Ocugen, Inc. Sec. Litig.*, 659 F. Supp. 3d 572 (E.D. Pa. Mar. 3, 2023), aff'd 2024 WL 1209513 (3d Cir. Mar. 21, 2024).
- Obtained full dismissal of a shareholder securities class action filed against Ohr Pharmaceutical, Inc., and its officers and directors, alleging misstatements and/or omissions in SEC filings in violation of Sections 10(b) and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. *Khanna v. Ohr Pharmaceutical, Inc.*, No. 1:18-cv-01284-LAP, 2019 WL 4572765 (S.D.N.Y. Sept. 20, 2019). The Second Circuit affirmed the dismissal in both of two subsequent appeals. *Lehmann v. Ohr Pharmaceutical, Inc.*, No. 20-4185 (2d Cir. Jan. 5, 2022); No. 18-3486 (2d Cir. Oct. 9, 2020). Also represented Ohr Pharmaceutical in related derivative actions in New York federal and state courts.
- Successfully obtained a dismissal for commercial vehicle electrification solutions provider and several of its former officers and directors in a securities class action filed in federal court in the Southern District of New York relating to a de-SPAC merger.
- Defended a franchising company in defeating a preliminary injunction motion seeking to enjoin a going-private merger valued at over $2 billion.
- Before a federal district court in the Sixth Circuit, obtained complete dismissal of a securities class action complaint filed against a former executive officer of a multinational food-service company alleging misstatements and/or omissions in a proxy statement in violation of Sections 14(a) and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 in connection with the company's acquisition by a venture capital firm.
- Defeated preliminary injunction motions filed against multiple financial institutions and their directors and officers seeking to enjoin shareholder votes on M&A transactions and ensuring those companies' ability to hold a successful shareholder vote and consummate the transaction. *Parshall v. HCSB Fin. Corp.*, No. 4:17-cv-01589, 2017 WL 3130479 (D.S.C. July 24, 2017); *Sciabucuchi v. Southcoast Fin. Corp.*, No. 2:15-cv-04352-DCN, Dkt. No. 47, 1/26/16 Hearing Transcript (D.S.C. June 28, 2017).
- Secured favorable outcomes in the early stages of litigation for numerous corporations and their directors and officers in multiple derivative actions that alleged various breaches of fiduciary duty and violations of Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and that challenged the price, process, and disclosures of the company in relation to M&A transactions.
- Obtained pre-discovery dismissal of a federal court action alleging ERISA and other federal and state law claims against a former corporate director and officer arising from a putative class action in federal district court. The Sixth Circuit affirmed, and the U.S. Supreme Court denied certiorari. *Loffredo v. Daimler AG*, 666 F. App'x 370 (6th Cir. 2016), *cert. denied*, 138 S. Ct. 80 (Oct. 2, 2017).

Delaware Court of Chancery and Other Derivative Litigation

- Defended Quikrete in the Delaware Court of Chancery and on appeal before the Delaware Supreme Court against a stockholder's Section 220 books and records demand arising from the company's $11.5 billion acquisition of Summit Materials, Inc., securing a full victory at trial and affirmance on appeal that rejected a novel attempt to use inspection rights to relitigate claims abandoned in a prior class action. *O'Neill v. Summit Materials, Inc.* No. 2025-0695-LM (BWD) (Del. Ch. Dec. 19, 2025), aff'd, No. 23, 2026 (Del. June 24, 2026).
- Obtained summary judgment in a putative class action before the Delaware Court of Chancery on behalf of an electric vehicle manufacturer that went public through a merger with a SPAC. *In re Faraday Future Intelligent Elec. Inc. S'holder Litig.*, No. 2022-0845-LWW, 2025 WL 445038 (Del. Ch. Feb. 10, 2025). Favorably settled a related securities class action and derivative litigation in the Central District of California.
- Obtained dismissal of a putative stockholder class action litigation brought against the three-person special committee of Voltari Corporation directors who negotiated a challenged multimillion-dollar going-private

transaction with the controlling stockholder of Voltari Corporation. *Franchi v. Firestone*, No. 2020-0503-KSJM, 2021 WL 1893232 (Del. Ch. May 10, 2021).

- Secured full dismissal of a shareholder derivative action against a former executive officer of one of the world's leading footwear and athletic apparel companies based on allegations that the company lacked adequate internal controls for reporting employee misconduct.
- Obtained full dismissal of a derivative action filed against SunTrust Banks, Inc. and numerous current and former officers and directors, alleging breaches of fiduciary duty and mismanagement related to certain mortgage servicing practices. *LR Trust v. Rogers*, 270 F. Supp. 3d 1364 (N.D. Ga. 2017). A favorable settlement was reached while on appeal to the Eleventh Circuit.
- Represented a leading ethereum blockchain organization to recover amounts under the Simple Agreement for Future Equity (SAFE Agreement).
- Represented a Delaware corporation in a Section 220 Books and Records action in Delaware Chancery Court.

Internal and Government Investigations

- Represented a special committee of the board of directors of a service provider in an independent investigation in response to a business dispute.
- Represented a special committee of the board of directors of a national real estate service provider in an independent investigation in response to a shareholder demand letter.
- Representation of several clients in a Department of Justice investigation relating to the health care sector.
- Represented a foreign investor in an insider trading investigation.

Appraisal and Dissenters' Rights Proceedings

- Secured a favorable outcome in an appraisal action initiated by the dissenting shareholders of a manufacturing company in Georgia state court.
- Obtained summary judgment in favor of the stockholders in a Washington dissenters' rights proceeding (removed to federal court) seeking a fair valuation of their shares following a corporate reorganization and an order of judgment against the defendants, including recovery of attorneys' fees.
- Secured a favorable settlement on behalf of a leading manufacturer in a Delaware appraisal action following the company's completion of an over $2 billion acquisition.

AWARDS

- *Chambers USA*: Litigation: Securities, Georgia (2022-2026)
- *Best Lawyers in America*®: Commercial Litigation (2027); Ones to Watch: Commercial Litigation (2021-2025), Litigation – Securities (2024-2025)
- *Super Lawyers*®: "Rising Star" – Securities Litigation, Georgia (2019-2025)
- *Benchmark Litigation*: "40 & Under List" in Georgia (2024-2025)
- ABA Business Law Section BCLC Women Business and Commercial Advocates 2026 Honoree (April 2026)

TOP AREAS OF FOCUS

- Appellate + Supreme Court
- Business Litigation
- Class Action
- Securities Investigations + Enforcement
- Securities Litigation

- White Collar Litigation + Investigations

ALL AREAS OF FOCUS

- Appellate + Supreme Court
- Business Litigation
- Class Action
- Litigation + Trial
- Securities Investigations + Enforcement
- Securities Litigation
- White Collar Litigation + Investigations

PROFESSIONAL/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Board member-at-large, Atlanta Bar Association (2026-present); board member-at-large, Atlanta Bar Association's Litigation Section (2023-present); activities committee member, Atlanta Bar Association's Litigation Section (2022-2023)
- Vice chair, Business and Corporate Litigation Committee, American Bar Association, Business Law Section (2025-present); director of regional meetings (2025-present); co-chair, Securities Litigation Subcommittee (2022-present)
- Member, American Bar Association, Litigation Section, Securities Litigation Committee (2022-present); co-chair, Women In Securities Litigation Subcommittee (2023-2024)
- Board member, University of North Carolina School of Law Alumni Association (2025); alumni engagement committee member, UNC School of Law (2015-present); chair, Carolina Law Club of Atlanta (2015-2024); member, Young Alumni Leadership Council (2021-2024)
- Member, Georgia Intrastate Moot Court Competition Committee, Young Lawyers Division, State Bar of Georgia (2012-2023); co-chair (2016-2018)
- Member, Women's White Collar Defense Association, Atlanta Chapter (2019-present)
- Member, Association for Corporate Growth (2014-2022)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Judicial extern to the Honorable David Daniel of the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of North Carolina (2010)

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

EDUCATION

- University of North Carolina School of Law, J.D., *with honors*, 2011
- Campbell University, B.A., *summa cum laude*, 2008

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Georgia
- New York

COURT ADMISSIONS

- Supreme Court of the United States
- Supreme Court of Georgia
- Court of Appeals of Georgia
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Georgia
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Third Circuit

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Panelist, "When the Regulator Leaves the Room: Public-Company Reporting Judgment Calls Before the FY2026 10-K," myLawCLE, November 19, 2026.
- Chair and moderator, "Who is Going to Pay for This: The In-House Counsel's Guide to Managing Litigation Costs," American Bar Association, Business Law Section, September 3, 2026.
- Panelist, "AI-Washing on Trial: Defense Strategies for Securities Litigation and Enforcement Risk," myLawCLE, August 21, 2026.
- Panelist, "Building a Book of Business," Atlanta Bar Association, Women in the Profession Section Lunch Panel, April 20, 2026.
- Panelist, "Hot Topics in Securities Litigation for 2026," Atlanta Bar Association, Litigation Section, March 13, 2026.
- Moderator, "Selecting & Working Effectively with Outside Counsel: Tips from the Client," ABA Houston Meetup: BCLC CLE and Networking Event 2026, January 22, 2026.
- Speaker, "Selecting & Working Effectively with Outside Counsel: Tips from the Client," Troutman Pepper Locke, June 17, 2025.
- Moderator, "Best Trials of 2024: YSL and Acquittals in Federal Court," Atlanta Bar Association, Litigation and Criminal Law Sections, February 14, 2025.
- Speaker, "Understanding the SEC's Whistleblower Program: Protections, Enforcement, and Drafting Compliant Agreements," mylawCLE, March 13, 2025.
- Panelist, "Business Law Jeopardy: Corporate Transparency Act, ESG, Privacy + Cyber Law, Labor & Employment Law, Whistleblower Protection & Enforcement, Women in Law," Troutman Pepper Executive Women's Forum, April 19, 2024.
- Speaker, "Corporate Director and Officer Liability: The Basics and Hot Topics," American Bar Association, Business Law Section, April 5, 2024.
- Speaker, "Recent Securities Decisions and Trends to Watch," March 20, 2024.
- Panelist, "Emerging Trends in Securities Litigation," Atlanta Bar Association, Litigation Section, December 1, 2023.
- Speaker, "Drafting Tips for Employee Agreements In the Wake of Increasing SEC Scrutiny of Whistleblower Compliance," Troutman Pepper Webinar, November 16, 2023.
- Speaker, "Hot Topics in Corporate Litigation, Compliance, and ESG," Troutman Pepper, June 22, 2023.
- Speaker, "Post-Merger & Acquisition Dispute Resolution," Troutman Pepper CLE Webinar, May 17, 2023.
- Speaker, "Developing Trends in Securities Class Action Litigation Challenging M&A Transactions," Advanced Securities Law Seminar, State Bar of Georgia Institute of Continuing Legal Education, February 2019.

PUBLICATIONS

- Co-author, "SEC Takes Official Position on Inclusion of Issuer-Investor Mandatory Arbitration Provisions for IPOs," *Troutman Pepper Locke*, September 23, 2025.
- Co-author, "Judicial Scrutiny Intensifies: The Evolving Role of Short-Seller Reports in Securities Claims," *Business Law Today*, July 2025.
- Co-author, "District Judge Orders Return of Mootness Fees in Akorn Shareholder Lawsuits and Hints at Further Sanctions," *Troutman Pepper Locke*, March 20, 2025.
- Co-author, "Prioritize Document Review for SEC Whistleblower Rule Compliance," *Troutman Pepper*, September 23, 2024.
- Co-author, "US Supreme Court to Hear Nvidia Crypto Mining Case on Securities Pleading Standard," *Troutman Pepper*, June 18, 2024.
- Co-author, "US Supreme Court Limits Scope of Omission Liability for Section 10(b) Securities Fraud Claims," *Troutman Pepper*, April 16, 2024.
- Co-author, "Oracle Ruling Underscores Trend of Mootness Fee Denials," *Law360*, April 15, 2024.
- Podcast, "Navigating the SEC's Whistleblower Enforcement Wave: A Guide for Financial Institutions," *The Consumer Finance Podcast*, March 7, 2024.
- Podcast, "Navigating Employment and Separation Agreements: Lessons From Al Pacino's *Serpico*," *Hiring to Firing Podcast*, February 20, 2024.
- Podcast, "10 Tips for Whistleblower-Compliant Agreements," TheCorporateCounsel.Net's *Timely Takes Podcast*, January 12, 2024.
- Co-author, "Top 10 Tips for Drafting Whistleblower Compliant Arrangements," *Troutman Pepper*, November 29, 2023.
- Co-author, "SCOTUS to Hear Dispute Over SEC Disclosure Rules," *Troutman Pepper*, October 4, 2023.
- Co-author, "Exercise Caution Before Stating a Lawsuit is "Without Merit"," *Troutman Pepper*, August 15, 2023.
- Co-author, "SEC v. Ripple Labs, Inc.: XRP Considered an Unregistered Security in Institutional Sales but Not in Programmatic Sales or Other Distributions," *Troutman Pepper*, July 14, 2023.
- Co-author, "Supreme Court Review May Prove the Death Knell to SEC Administrative Courts," *Troutman Pepper*, July 5, 2023.
- Co-author, "Unanimous Supreme Court Sharply Limits Liability under Section 11 for Companies Issuing Securities Through Direct Listings," *Troutman Pepper*, June 9, 2023.
- Co-author, "Recent SEC Complaint Signals Increased Enforcement Risk for Companies on ESG Disclosures," *Troutman Pepper*, May 10, 2022.
- Co-author, "Delaware Court Issues Novel Ruling Clarifying Treatment of Cryptocurrency Assets When Evaluating Contract Damages," *Troutman Pepper*, April 28, 2022.
- Co-author, "Not "Securities" — A Victory for Crypto-Related Products," *Troutman Pepper*, November 22, 2021.
- Co-author, "Delaware Supreme Court Adopts New Three-Part Test for Demand Futility," *Troutman Pepper*, October 1, 2021.
- Co-author, "Second Circuit Rules Plaintiffs' Securities Class Action Cannot Ride the Coattails of Foreign Bank's Regulatory Troubles," *Troutman Pepper*, September 2, 2021.
- Co-author, "District of Massachusetts Finds Optimistic Statements Do Not Amount to Actionable Securities Fraud," *Troutman Pepper*, August 4, 2021.
- Co-author, "SEC Increases Data Analytics Focus to Identify Securities Law Violations," *INSIGHTS: The Corporate & Securities Law Advisor*, July 2021.
- Co-author, "US Supreme Court Reverses Class Certification in 10b-5 Action," *Troutman Pepper*, June 24, 2021.
- Co-author, "SolarWinds Cyberattack Generates Recent Widespread SEC Enforcement Requests," *Troutman Pepper*, June 23, 2021.

- Co-author, “SEC Commentary Highlights Increased Focus on Data Analytics in Identifying Potential Securities Law Violations,” *Troutman Pepper*, June 14, 2021.
- Co-author, “Second Circuit: Nonspecific Fraud Allegations Aren’t Enough,” *Troutman Pepper*, April 27, 2021.
- Co-author, “Northern District of California Delineates When Affirmative Statements Can Create a Duty to Disclose,” *Troutman Pepper*, March 30, 2021.
- Co-author, “Delaware Court of Chancery Sustains Caremark Claim Against Audit Committee,” *Troutman Sanders*, May 5, 2020.
- Co-author, “The Inevitable Wave of COVID-19-Related Securities Litigation: What Public Companies Can Expect and Do to Prepare,” *Troutman Sanders*, April 6, 2020.
- Co-author, “A Real Game-Changer: Supreme Court of Delaware Validates Federal Forum Provisions for Securities Act Cases,” *Troutman Sanders*, March 19, 2020.
- Co-author, “*Morrison v. Berry* – Further Limitations on the Application of the Business Judgment Rule,” *Troutman Sanders Private Equity Quarterly*, August 2019.
- Co-author, “The Latest Trends In Multiforum Securities Litigation,” *Law360*, April 2019.
- Co-author, “Delaware Chancery Court Strikes Down Federal Forum Provisions for Securities Act Cases,” *Troutman Sanders*, December 21, 2018.
- Co-author, “Supreme Court Unanimously Decides that State Courts Have Jurisdiction Over Class Actions Brought Under the Securities Act of 1933,” *Troutman Sanders*, March 23, 2018.
- Co-author, “New Georgia Law Strengthens Business Judgment Rule,” *Troutman Sanders*, May 15, 2017.
- Co-author, “That’s a Lot of Pineapples – Delaware Court of Chancery Holds Dole Executives Personally Liable for $148 Million in Damages from Breaches of Fiduciary Duty and Fraud in Going-Private Transaction: Lessons for Deal Lawyers,” *Troutman Sanders*, September 16, 2015.
- Co-author, “The Supreme Court’s Recent Omnicare Decision Already Netting Big Results for Issuers,” *TerraLex Connections*, June 2015.
- “Georgia Supreme Court Clarifies Business Judgment Rule for Directors and Officers of Georgia Corporations and Banks,” Troutman Sanders Advisory, July 16, 2014 .
- Co-author, “Protections Remain in Place for Georgia Officers, Directors,” *Law360*, July 22, 2014.
- Co-author, “Supreme Court Allows for Rebuttal of Fraud-On-The-Market Presumption in Securities Actions at Class Certification Stage,” Troutman Sanders Advisory, July 11, 2014.
- Co-author, “The Fall of the Moench Presumption: The Supreme Court’s Unfavorable (yet Favorable) Ruling for Fiduciaries in Fifth Third Bancorp v. Dudenhoeffer,” Troutman Sanders Advisory, July 3, 2014.
- Co-author, “Attys’ Fees Under Increasing Scrutiny in M&A Settlements,” *Law360*, April 3, 2014.
- Co-author, “Federal Court’s Dismissal of Shareholder Derivative Action Entitled to Preclusive Effect in Courts of Delaware,” Troutman Sanders Advisory, May 2, 2013.

MEDIA COMMENTARY

- Quoted, “SEC Changes for Public Cos. Shake Up D&O Coverage Risks,” *Law360*, October 9, 2025.
- Quoted, “High Court’s Regulatory Rulings Unsettle Coverage Risks,” *Law360*, July 3, 2024.
- Featured, “Case Review — *Axon Enterprise, Inc. v. Federal Trade Commission*,” *Business Law Today*, August 21, 2023.