Molly S. DiRago

Partner

Chicago

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Molly is a skilled trial attorney who handles high-stakes business disputes, fraud allegations, and deceptive trade practices class actions. She is a fierce advocate for her clients, who rely on her to provide an aggressive but practical approach to litigation to achieve client goals.

OVERVIEW

Molly focuses her practice on complex commercial matters, including large, multistate consumer fraud class actions, deceptive trade practices and false advertising litigation, cryptocurrency litigation, and mass arbitrations. As an experienced trial attorney and member of the Northern District of Illinois' trial bar, she approaches all phases of litigation with an eye toward trial, recognizing that effective trial preparation achieves results — whether it's in the courtroom or at the negotiating table.

Clients depend on Molly to have their backs. Whether a large, multinational company or a small, closely held corporation, she provides client-focused service as a strong advocate and trusted partner in litigation. By taking the time to thoroughly understand her clients' industries, cultures, and specific goals, Molly collaborates with her clients to devise litigation strategies tailored to their unique needs and objectives.

Molly believes strongly in paying it forward, which she does through her active pro bono representation of clients. This has included the pro bono representation of a woman facing millions of dollars in damages from a defamation lawsuit because she was not afraid to tell her story of sexual assault. Molly is also currently partnering with the Pennsylvania Innocence Project to defend a wrongly incarcerated individual accused of murder. Molly is similarly passionate about mentoring, both within the firm and in the community. She formally mentors young attorneys through the Leadership Council for Legal Diversity law school mentorship program and as a member of the firm's recruiting committee. Molly also chaired the firm's third annual in-person deposition clinic for associates and is a regular faculty member of its in-person trial advocacy clinic.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Represented an agricultural association accused of antitrust violations by several well-known food manufacturers in a six-week federal jury trial in the Northern District of Illinois.
- Successfully represented a global petroleum and petrochemical trading company in a 10-day trial that resulted in holding a contractual counter-party company's affiliates, managers, and owners liable under veil-piercing and alter-ego theories for a multimillion-dollar judgment against the company.

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- Served as lead trial counsel defending a New York county and its legislature in a challenge to a state statute.
- First-chaired a trial in New Mexico challenging the state's congressional activities.
- Successfully defended a global health care company with household name consumer products against allegation of fraud and misleading labeling.
- Served as trial counsel in New York challenging certain state enactments.
- Defended PJM Interconnection LLC, which coordinates the movement of wholesale electricity in all or parts of 13 states and the District of Columbia, against allegations of energy markets manipulation in violation of RICO, with damages of up to $150 million.
- Handled international arbitration before the ICDR for a global petroleum and petrochemical company involving the interpretation of a force majeure provision and alleged breach of contract.
- Successfully litigated a federal shareholders' case, ultimately winning her clients the right to regain control of their company after having been illegally ousted by a third shareholder.
- Served as the lead attorney for a limited liability company member in a case alleging the managing member defrauded the company and breached its fiduciary duties.
- Represented shareholders of a closely held corporation in their shareholder disputes, including breach of contract and fiduciary duties, and assisted them in forming their own division to run autonomously.
- Represented, pro bono, the first plaintiff to avail herself of the Illinois Department of Labor's Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act, which resulted in a full hearing before a Department of Labor administrative judge.

AWARDS

- *Best Lawyers in America*®: Commercial Litigation (2025-2027)
- Notable Women in Law, *Chicago Business Journal* (2024)
- *Super Lawyers*: Business Litigation (2023-2024, 2026)

TOP AREAS OF FOCUS

- Business Litigation
- Food + Beverage
- Privacy + Cyber

ALL AREAS OF FOCUS

- Antitrust
- Business Litigation
- Class Action
- Corporate Espionage Response Team
- Food + Beverage
- Incidents + Investigations
- Litigation + Trial
- Privacy + Cyber
- Tariff + Trade Task Force

PROFESSIONAL/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Member, *Law360* Illinois Editorial Advisory Board (2023-2024)
- Mentor for the Leadership Council for Legal Diversity law school mentorship program
- Executive board member, Roscoe Villages Neighbors
- Associate editor, *Write City Magazine*
- Moot Court Judge, Windy City Moot Court Competition for undergraduate students
- Moot Court Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County Mock Trial Competition for Chicago Public High Schools

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

EDUCATION

- University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, J.D., 2004, Prosser Award for Feminist Jurisprudence, 2003; teacher's assistant for the director of legal writing and research, 2002-2004
- Illinois State University, B.S., *magna cum laude, with distinction*, 1998, anthropology and women's studies

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Illinois
- Wisconsin

COURT ADMISSIONS

- U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Illinois

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Speaker, ACI Advanced Summit on Food Law Regulation, Compliance and Litigation, April 28, 2026.
- Panelist, "Nextgen Privacy – Going Beyond PHI and PII Cybersecurity and Data Privacy," ABA – Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section Conference, April 27, 2022.
- Speaker, "Trade Secret Theft and Protecting Sensitive Information in the Age of COVID-19," Troutman Pepper, October 14, 2021.
- Panelist, "Illinois Privacy and Cyber Security Primer: The Biometric Information Privacy Act (BIPA) and Other Privacy Laws," presentation to the Chicago Bar Association, March 9, 2021.
- Panelist, "Five Key Developments in the Privacy and Data Security Sector in 2020 and Five Predictions for 2021," Troutman Pepper webinar, January 26, 2021.
- Panelist, "Privacy Law Update," presentation to Baxter International, Inc., January 16, 2020.
- Speaker, "Privacy Issues in Illinois: the Biometric Privacy Act (BIPA) and Beyond," Chicago Kent's 38th Annual Conference on Not-For-Profit Organizations, June 13, 2019.

PUBLICATIONS

- Co-author, "IEEPA Tariff Refunds May Come With an Unforeseen Cost — Exposure to Consumer Class Actions," *Troutman Pepper Locke*, March 27, 2026.
- Co-author, "Illinois Court Eliminates Another BIPA Defense," *Troutman Pepper*, September 18, 2023.
- Co-author, "Washington Legislature Goes Big With "My Health My Data Act"," *Troutman Pepper*, May 2, 2023.

- Author, "Illinois: BIPA – the 'Gold Standard' of Biometric Legislation," *OneTrust DataGuidance*, March 27, 2023.
- Co-author, "New York City's Revival Window Opens for Gender-Motivated Violence Survivors," *Troutman Pepper*, March 2, 2023.
- Co-author, "BIPA Claims Receive Five-Year Limitations Period," *Troutman Pepper*, February 7, 2023.
- Co-author, "2022 Regulatory Privacy Year in Review," *Troutman Pepper*, February 2, 2023.
- Co-author, "Employers and Others Prepare for New York's Adult Survivors Act Revival Window Opening November 24," *Troutman Pepper*, November 22, 2022.
- Co-author, "Deadline for New UK Contract Requirements for Personal Data Transfers Is Here (EU and California Deadlines Looming)!," *Troutman Pepper*, September 27, 2022.
- Co-author, "Employers Must Prepare for Revival Law Sex Abuse Claims," *Law360*, June 6, 2022.
- Co-author, "Clearview and ACLU Reach Settlement to Limit Access to Photo Database," *Troutman Pepper*, May 24, 2022.
- Co-author, "Kentucky's Genetic Information Privacy Act Passes," *Troutman Pepper*, April 29, 2022.
- Co-author, "A Fresh "Face" of Privacy: 2022 Biometric Laws," *Troutman Pepper*, April 5, 2022.
- Co-author, "Drivers' Telematics Violates BIPA," *Westlaw Today*, February 1, 2022.
- Co-author, "Drivers' Telematics Violates BIPA," *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor*, January 12, 2022.
- Co-author, "Hoping for a One-Year Statute of Limitations Under Illinois BIPA?," *Troutman Pepper*, September 28, 2021.
- Co-author, "New UK Standards for Children's Digital Services Take Effect — Provides Framework for New US Law," *Troutman Pepper*, September 23, 2021.
- Author, "The Litigation Landscape of Illinois' Biometric Information Privacy Act," *American Bar Association Cybersecurity and Data Privacy Committee Newsletter*, Summer 2021.
- Co-author, "Key Legal Developments in Privacy and Data Security in 2020 and Gazing Ahead to 2021," *The Review of Banking & Financial Services*, July 2021.
- Co-author, "New Standard Contractual Clauses Supply Opportunities and Obligations for Organizations Transferring Personal Data Out of the EU," *Troutman Pepper*, July 22, 2021.
- Co-author, "Colorado Governor Enacts Comprehensive Data Privacy Bill — How Does It Compare to California and Virginia?," *Troutman Pepper*, July 14, 2021.
- Co-author, "New York City Enacts Biometrics Law for Food and Drink Establishments, Entertainment Venues, and Retail Stores," *Troutman Pepper*, June 25, 2021.
- Co-author, "Colorado Passes Comprehensive Data Privacy Law," *Troutman Pepper*, June 15, 2021.
- Co-author, "Enforcement Begins Under Chicago's Ban on Flavored Vaping Products," *Troutman Pepper Tobacco Law Blog*, February 16, 2021.
- Co-author, "Protecting Biometric Data Privacy," *Bloomberg Law*, April 2020.
- Co-author, "Recent Breach Shows Importance of Securing Biometric Data," *Law360*, August 21, 2019.
- Co-author, "The Illinois Artificial Intelligence Video Interview Act: Requiring Notice Prior to Use of Artificial Intelligence in Video Interviews," *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor,* June 26, 2019.
- Co-author, "Data Privacy: The Current Legal Landscape 2018 Reviewed," *Troutman Sanders News & Knowledge, January 15, 2019.*
- Author, "Data Privacy: The Current Legal Landscape – September 2018," *Troutman Sanders News & Knowledge*, September 26, 2018.
- Co-author, "A New Wave of BIPA Cases? Alleging Third-Party Disclosure Under Illinois' Biometric Information Privacy Act," *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor*, August 2018.
- Author, "Trend Persists in Article III Standing Under Illinois' Biometric Information Privacy Act," *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor*, March 14, 2018.
- Author, "New Law Gives Scholarships to Students, Tax Credits to Taxpayers," *Illinois Legal Aid Online*,

February 8, 2018.

- Co-author, *Annual Report: 2017 Consumer Financial Services Year in Review and a Look Ahead*, published by Troutman Sanders LLP, January 10, 2018.
- Author, "Insights on Article III Standing Under III. Biometrics Law," *Law360*, November 30, 2017.
- Author, "BIPA: Not Just for Cyber Companies," *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor*, November 2017.
- Co-author, "Data Privacy: The Current Legal Landscape," *Troutman Sanders Newsletter*, October 2017.
- Co-author, "Current Autonomous Vehicle Technology Standards for Privacy and Security: What Are They and What Do They Mean?," *Bloomberg Law: Privacy and Security Law Report*, October 2017.
- Co-author, "A Lawyer's Guide to NIST's 'Security and Privacy Controls,'" *Law360*, September 2017.
- Author, Trademark Infringement/Dilution Chapter, *Illinois Causes of Action*, IICLE, 2010-2013.
- Author, "*Rachel Barton v. Chicago & Northwestern*: Who Should Face the Music?," Berkley Law Tort Series, 2003.

MEDIA COMMENTARY

- Mentioned, "Leading Trial Atty Details How Demonstratives Helped Clear Nissan in $42M Airbag Trial," *CVN Trial Technique Spotlight*, December 15, 2025.
- Mentioned, "Tax Prep Co. Gets Final OK for $3M Data Breach Settlement," *Law360*, October 7, 2019.
- Mentioned, "ITC Faces $7.7M Suit Alleging Texas Plant Fire Caused Delays," *Law360*, September 25, 2019.