

Catherine S. Duval

Partner

Frequently, the best results in a government investigation or confidential settlement are nowhere to be found: not on TV, in a newspaper, blogged about, or tweeted.

Kate Duval focuses on achieving her clients' goals, which often means shielding them from unwanted spotlights and minimizing public attention. Her "extraordinary judgment" frequently helps clients in the highest profile disputes achieve the lowest possible profile. (Source: *Chambers USA*)

Described in *Chambers* as "ridiculously smart," as well as "a great writer and oral advocate," Kate's clients come to her when facing their toughest challenges – whether responding to Congress, disciplinary authorities, or other government inquiries, preparing to testify, or conducting sensitive internal investigations.

Years of government service – in all three branches and for politicians of both parties – have well acquainted her with pressure from Congress, the Department of Justice, courts, litigation, and the glare of the public eye. Sometimes all at once. She understands how government works. As one client put it, she knows Congress "inside out." (Source: *Compromised* by Peter Strzok)

Kate's practice in defending lawyers' professional liability and attorneys' disciplinary matters is complemented by teaching legal ethics at Georgetown University Law Center and her six years of service as a hearing committee member for the District of Columbia Court of Appeals Board of Professional Responsibility, where she helped resolve attorney ethics and discipline issues.

Although she's been described as a "top fixer" (by former Speaker of the House John Boehner), Kate prefers to consider herself a zealous, principled advocate for her clients. During her time in the Obama Administration, Kate led teams of lawyers responsible for investigations and oversight-related matters at two agencies, first as counselor to the commissioner of the IRS and later at the U.S. Department of State. She dealt with congressional committees regarding the Benghazi attacks, the IRS 501(c)(4) nonprofit application process, and email issues, including preparing several State Department and IRS officials for congressional hearings and other testimony.

After a Second Circuit clerkship and before her work in the



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Practice focus

- Business Litigation
- Congressional investigations
- Investigations
- Legal Profession and Ethics
- White Collar Defense
- Cultural Assessments and Internal Investigations
- Pro Bono

Education

- Duke University School of Law, J.D., *cum laude*, 2002
 - Senior Editor, *Law and Contemporary Problems*
 - Paul B. Williams Merit Scholarship
- Georgetown University, B.A., *magna cum laude*, 1999
 - Alpha Sigma Lambda



ZUCKERMAN
SPAEDER

executive branch, Kate began private practice at Williams & Connolly LLP.

Honor Society

Kate's passion for advocacy predates her J.D. Before law school, she had a particular focus on women's health issues, working at Planned Parenthood on the local and national levels (PPNNE and PPFA, respectively) and worked on a Vermont gubernatorial race for Governor Richard A. Snelling, and served as a legislative staffer for U.S. Senator James M. Jeffords (then-R-VT).

Languages

Kate is active in firm management, serving on the firm's Partnership Board and its attorney hiring committees.

Some of her clients include:

- law firms and lawyers from the *AmLaw 100* (and others) responding to disciplinary investigations or defending professional liability claims;
- publicly traded companies responding to government inquiries or conducting internal investigations in response to a variety of alleged company or employee misconduct;
- a domestic importer facing a politically-motivated congressional investigation of its business and government contracts;
- a college student caught up in the college admissions ("Varsity Blues") investigation;
- an international private intelligence agency responding to investigations and litigation alleging violations of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act and fraud;
- a Flint emergency city manager responding to congressional investigation of the Flint, Michigan water crisis;
- a former FBI Special Agent in various investigations by Congressional committees and the DOJ Inspector General; and
- an attorney fighting potential disbarment for actions taken in the course of representing a client.

Government service

- Senior advisor and counsel
 - U.S. Department of State
- Counselor to the Commissioner



- Internal Revenue Service
- Legislative Assistant
 - Senator James M. Jeffords (then R-VT), United States Senate

Professional leadership

- Adjunct Professor, Georgetown University Law Center
- Member, Women's White Collar Defense Association
- Member, Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers
- Member, Hearing Committee, District of Columbia Court of Appeals, Board of Professional Responsibility, 2009 – 2015

Recognitions

- Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business, White-Collar Crime and Government Investigations (Washington, DC)
- The Best Lawyers in America, Criminal Defense: White-Collar; Ethics and Professional Responsibility Law
- Lawdragon 500 Leading Litigators in America
- Super Lawyers (Washington, DC)
- DC Courts, Capital Pro Bono Honor Roll, 2022
- Lawyer Monthly's Women in Law Award, 2019
- DCA Live Emerging Women Leaders in Private Practice, 2019

Bar admissions

- District of Columbia
- Massachusetts
- Rhode Island

Court admissions

- U.S. District Court, District of Columbia
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Georgia

- U.S. District Court, District of Maryland

Clerkships

- Hon. Fred I. Parker, U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit