



→ William K. Kane

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William Kane is a partner in the Business Trial Practice Group in the firm's Chicago office.

Areas of Practice

Bill's national litigation practice includes complex commercial litigation and advice across industry sectors in corporate governance, director and officer issues, shareholder rights, media/entertainment, and regulatory issues. His practice includes client representation before trial and appellate courts, administrative agencies, as well as private mediations and arbitrations. He is particularly experienced in representing clients in need of emergency injunctive relief for trade secret theft and unfair business competition. Bill further has extensive experience advising clients on the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, 18 U.S.C. § 1030, having secured one of the first civil claims under the law in conjunction with a trade secret theft prosecution. He actively represents clients in contract disputes, business tort claims, antitrust, and consumer protection issues. Bill further has experience in Special Purpose Acquisition Company or SPAC litigation.

Bill's private antitrust litigation experience includes successfully representing a plaintiff in an investigation and litigation in the Northern District of Illinois against Dainippon Screen for unlawful tying claims. He was also part of the defense team in *USA v. Andreas* (ADM) criminal antitrust case in the Northern District of Illinois, a hard fought antitrust case which involved conspiracy to fix prices in Lysine, on which the movie "The Informant" was based.

Bill's media/entertainment experience includes representing clients in relation to copyright disputes and title issues in filmed entertainment, advice and dispute resolution of management contracts in music, rights to publicity, and defamation. He further guides trusts and estates on generational ownership and transition of copyrighted works. Bill represented the Estate of Kevin McClory in resolving a celebrated 50 year copyright dispute involving ownership claims in the James Bond film franchise, the fictional character Ernst Stavro Blofeld, and *SPECTRE*.

His government controversy practice includes representing clients in response to state and federal regulatory enforcement actions, including parallel proceedings, Presence Exams, and market issues related to 7 U.S.C. § 9 of the Commodity Exchange Act ("CEA"), including its application in the Fin-Tech industry. He further conducts internal investigations for company board of directors and executive management in response to threatened and pending claims.

Bill served in the Illinois Attorney General's office for five years where he represented the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of state government. His public law experience included state law investigation and enforcement, civil rights prosecution and defense, state government contracting and development,

constitutional defense of state statutes, and consumer protection litigation. He represented numerous state agencies and their Directors, including, the Illinois Department of Banks & Trusts, the Illinois Capital Development Board, the Illinois Department of Financial Institutions, the Illinois Health Facilities Planning Board, the Illinois Department of Insurance, the Illinois Department of Labor, the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and the Illinois Secretary of State. Bill's state government trial and appellate experience included court appearances throughout Illinois in state trial and appellate courts, U.S. District Courts, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, and Illinois administrative agencies.

Articles

- 'Solicit' Ruling Offers Proxy Advisers Compliance Relief
Law360, 09.08.2025
- Plain Speaking Wins The Day At The D.C. Circuit: Proxy Advisors Are Not Subject To Sec Section 14(A) Solicitation Prohibition Rule
Wall Street Lawyer, 08.2025
- Recent SEC Proposed Rulemaking Could Impact Blockchain Trading Platforms
National Law Journal, 01.28.2022
- Extraterritorial Application of the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act
IP Watchdog, 05.29.2020

Corporate & Securities Law Blog Posts

- "Plain Speaking Wins the Day at the D.C. Circuit: Proxy Advisors Are Not Subject to SEC Section 14(a) Solicitation Prohibition Rule," July 11, 2025

Law of the Ledger Blog Posts

- "The SEC's Sudden Impact on NFTs!," September 8, 2023
- "Digital Asset Policy: Aspirations, Reality and Regulation," August 18, 2022
- "Recent SEC Proposed Rulemaking Could Impact Blockchain Trading Platforms," January 31, 2022
- "Tokenization: Opportunity and Regulation, Finding a Balance," October 15, 2021
- "Wyoming Takes the Lead With Decentralized Autonomous Organizations," May 25, 2021
- "CFTC Cryptocurrency Enforcement Receives Further Judicial Support," October 11, 2018

Media Mentions

INSIGHT: SEC's Reg ATS proposal seen signaling more potential authority over Crypto
Regulatory Intelligence, 02.01.2022

P3 Health Seeks Hefty Bond For \$2.3B SPAC Deal Injunction
Law360, 09.09.2021

Rapacious Businessman Ran \$2m Scam, Trust Claims
Law360, 04.10.2020

Sheppard Mullin Adds Litigation Partner From BakerHostetler

Law360, 02.23.2017

Citadel Trade Secret Theft Prosecution - Stolen Trading Information Brings Prison Sentence

Chicago Daily Law Bulletin, 2015

Settled Not Stirred

Chicago Lawyer Magazine, 2014

Unusual Split as Supreme Court Upholds Raging Bull Copyright Suit

Forbes, 2014

Supreme Court Reverses Raging Bull Copyright Suit

Los Angeles Times, 2014

Supreme Court Gives New Life to Raging Bull Rights Case

Variety, 2014

Justices Spar Over Laches in Raging Bull Bout

Law360, 2014

The Legal Battle Behind Bond's Blofeld

The Hollywood Reporter, 2014

MGM and DANJAQ settle James Bond rights Dispute with McClory Estate

Los Angeles Times, 2013

Will Blofeld be back on the Silver Screen Soon? MGM ends 50 year battle with James Bond co-writer

Daily Mail, 2013

"Rock'n the Trouble", Speech of CFTC Commissioner Bart Chilton

Chicago, 2013

MGM James Bond Producer End Decades - Long War Over 007

Variety, 2013

Memberships

Member, Antitrust, International Law and Litigation Sections, American Bar Association

Member, Litigation and Corporate and Securities, Illinois Bar Association

St. Mary's College of Maryland, Advisory Board Member, Center for the Study of Democracy (2017-2019).

Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, Foundation Board Member (2009-2017).

Cabrini Connections Tutor Mentoring, Advisory Board & Board Member (1995-2009).

Podcasts & Webinars

Legit Ledger Episode 20: Ripple v. Terraform, CFTC v. SEC – Where Next?

08.16.2023

The Legit Ledger Episode 12: Fintech Enforcement In Light of the Ooki DAO Lawsuit with Bill Kane and Zack Golda

11.14.2022

Restructure This! Episode 16: Current Trends in SPACs with Bill Kane

10.25.2022

Practices

Antitrust and Competition

Copyrights

Corporate

Derivatives and Structured Products

Entertainment, Technology and Advertising

Intellectual Property

Litigation

Securities Enforcement

Securities Litigation

Industries

Blockchain and Fintech

Entertainment, Technology and Advertising

Financial Services

Private Equity

Education

J.D., University of Illinois, Chicago School of Law, 1986

B.S., Miami University, 1982

Admissions

U.S. Supreme Court

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan

U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan

U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Trial Bar
U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
Illinois