



# Karen M. Borg

*partner*

Known as a strategic and versatile litigator, Karen concentrates her practice in complex commercial litigation, product liability, bankruptcy, and reinsurance and insurance disputes. She is a member of the firm's Life Sciences team and has experience in the consumer products and manufacturing sectors.

**Her considerable experience implementing and leading nationwide litigation strategies and managing multi-jurisdictional settlement programs, allows her to guide clients through some of the most complex disputes.**

She has served as national counsel in many high-stakes disputes, including representing clients in complex legacy liability cases. Karen has served as national counsel for manufacturers in product liability cases in state court and multidistrict litigation. She also served as national counsel for manufacturers involved in asbestos and silica disputes, and worked closely with those clients to develop approaches that aligned with their ultimate business goals.

Additionally, Karen has represented credit and mortgage insurers in coverage disputes with lenders involving allegations of fraud and breach of contract that arose as a result of events surrounding the 2008 mortgage crisis. Her representations in this area span a variety of jurisdictions and venues, including arbitration. In one such notable matter, Karen managed the litigation team in asserting claims of fraud and breach of contract against lenders that were issued credit insurance policies for hundreds of thousands of home equity loans and lines of credit.

Karen's bankruptcy experience includes the representation of individual creditors, creditors' committees, debtors, liquidating trusts and lessors. Karen has litigated numerous issues, including preference and avoidance

## CONTACT

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## EDUCATION

Chicago-Kent College of Law, J.D.,  
*with honors*, 1995

Duke University, B.A., 1988

## SERVICES

### Reinsurance Litigation & Arbitration

#### Litigation

- Product liability
- Commercial litigation
- Securities litigation
- Non-competition and trade secrets litigation
- Arbitration and mediation
- Insurance litigation
- Class actions, mass torts and MDLs
- Financial services litigation

#### Business Competition, Advice & Litigation

- Non-compete, non-solicitation, non-recruitment and non-disclosure agreements

actions, automatic stay, claims resolution, and other bankruptcy and bankruptcy-related matters.

Beyond her work as a litigator, Karen is active in promoting education among insurance and reinsurance professionals, serving as one of the co-chairs of Porter Wright's annual Women in Reinsurance (WIR) program. WIR is an educational and networking series for women arbitrators, business executives, consultants and attorneys operating in the insurance and reinsurance industry. Karen is also a champion for women in the legal profession and an active member of the firm's Women's Leadership Initiative.

## REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- As national counsel for manufacturers in mass tort cases, oversaw litigation, managed performance of local counsel, and supervised and assisted local counsel throughout the United States in the defense and resolution of the underlying bodily injury suits.
- As national counsel for manufacturers, supervised and assisted regional and local counsel throughout the United States in the defense, mediation and resolution of product liability cases in state and federal courts, including multidistrict proceedings.
- Represented various clients in asbestos and silica litigation across the country.
- Represented insurers in a declaratory judgment action filed by the insured seeking a declaration regarding the insurers' alleged coverage obligations for asbestos-related bodily injury claims.
- Represented insurer in lawsuit alleging fraud and breach of contract against lenders, which were issued credit insurance policies for hundreds of thousands of home equity loans and lines of credit.
- Represented mortgage and credit insurers in defending coverage actions brought by insureds.
- Represented mortgage insurer in coverage, misrepresentation and bad faith disputes against various lenders.
- Represented directors and officers in suit against surplus note holders alleging omissions and misrepresentations in the note offering.
- Represented cedent in dispute with reinsurer concerning the number of occurrences in underlying asbestos, silica and priest-abuse claims.
- Counseled insurer/reinsurer in dispute over scope of commutation agreement.
- Represented national beverage company in its successful effort to protect its rights in a Chapter 11 asbestos-related bankruptcy case.

## BAR ADMISSIONS

- Illinois
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois
- U.S. Court of Federal Claims

## SERVICES (CONTINUED)

### Bankruptcy, Workout & Creditors' Rights

- Bankruptcy litigation

### Financial Institutions

- Financial services litigation

### Banking & Finance

### Health Care

- Litigation

### Privacy & Data Security

## PRESENTATIONS

- “Link Outside the Box: the Future of Blockchain in Reinsurance,” AIRROC Chicago Regional Education Day, May 14, 2019
- “On-demand, Usage-based and Micro Insurance,” AIRROC Spring Education Day, March 6, 2019
- “Peer to Peer Pressure?,” AIRROC Chicago Regional Education Day, June 12, 2018

## PUBLICATIONS

- “BIPA suits against 3rd-party vendors face numerous hurdles,” *Law360*, Aug. 11, 2020
- “BIPA may apply to Clearview AI’s creation of biometric data,” *Law360*, Feb. 18, 2020
- “Anti-concurrent causation clauses play major role in Hurricane Sandy claims,” *Corporate Counsel*, March 2013

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Association of Professional Insurance Women, Member
- Defense Research Institute, Member