



Dakota M. Burns

Counsel

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Dakota Burns is Counsel in the firm's Litigation department, where his practice focuses on advertising litigation, complex commercial litigation, art and museum law, and white collar defense and investigations.

Mr. Burns was named to the 2024-2026 editions of *Best Lawyers®: Ones to Watch*, which recognizes outstanding professional excellence in private practice by attorneys who have typically been in practice for up to 10 years. From 2018 to 2019, Mr. Burns served as a Law Clerk to the Hon. Jane B. Stranch of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. From 2015 to 2016, he served as a Law Clerk to the Hon. Gregory Van Tatenhove of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky.

Representative Matters

Commercial Litigation

Regularly represents multinational food, beverage, and cosmetics companies in putative class actions concerning product advertising and labeling.

Represented major media and entertainment company in dispute concerning popular reality television series.

Represented leading European industrial conglomerate in suits alleging trade secret misappropriation.

Represented global industrial equipment and service provider in contract dispute regarding terms of merger agreement.

Represented European bank in connection with allegations brought by asset managers, pension funds, and central banks concerning alleged manipulation of the foreign exchange market.

White Collar Defense and Investigations

Represented prominent art museum in connection with investigations by the Manhattan District Attorney and U.S. Attorney's Office concerning the provenance of pieces in the museum's collection.

Advised art galleries and individual collectors on a range of issues, including provenance and ownership disputes, anti-money laundering laws, and compliance with sanctions programs.

Conducted internal investigations of companies and non-profit organizations in connection with allegations of commercial bribery and money laundering.

Conducted internal investigation of law firm in connection with allegations of malpractice brought by debtor in bankruptcy proceeding, and successfully negotiated settlement of claims with debtor.

Pro Bono

Represented mother and son who sought asylum in the United States after facing threats of extortion and murder by gang members in El Salvador, and successfully obtained relief under the Convention Against Torture that enabled both to remain in the United States.

Authored *amicus* brief in the U.S. Supreme Court concerning the government's obligation under the Immigration and Nationality Act to conduct an individualized assessment of the propriety of detention of individuals seeking asylum in the United States.

Represented class of individuals asserting claims for deceptive business practices, unjust enrichment, and harassment against operator of three-quarter houses in New York. Successfully obtained multimillion-dollar damages award and injunctive relief.

Represented comic book artist in dispute with publisher involving unconscionable contract that purported to grant the publisher virtually all rights to the artist's intellectual property.

Authored *amicus* brief in the U.S. Supreme Court concerning the availability of damages awards under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act in connection with federal agents' unlawful placement of Muslim man on "No Fly List" in retaliation for his refusal to work as an informant in the American-Muslim community.

Admissions

- New York

Education

- Harvard Law School (J.D., *cum laude*, 2015)
 - Senior Editor and Submissions Board Member, *Harvard Environmental Law Review*
- University of Louisville (B.A., *magna cum laude*, 2010)

Speaking Engagements

- Speaker, "Reviewing The Next Generation of Product Liability Claims in Cosmetics," ACI's 13th Annual Legal, Regulatory, and Compliance Forum on Cosmetics & Personal Care Products (March 12, 2026)
- Panelist, "Incorporating Lessons from Recent Advertising Claims Class Actions Into Your Future Claims Substantiation Strategies," ACI's 8th Annual Legal, Regulatory, and Compliance Forum on Advertising Claims Substantiation (February 7, 2025)

Publications

- Co-Author, "['Mallory' Decision Could Have Profound Implications for Out-of-State Companies Registered to Do Business in NY](#)," *New York Law Journal* (July 10, 2023)