

As a commercial litigator, Kristen Werries Collier, 39, is known for her superb advocacy skills, professionalism, teamwork and leadership. Those attributes explain how she gets such great results for her clients and justify the laudable reputation she has built during her 12-year career at Novack and Macey, litigating complex matters involving contracts, business torts, partnership disputes, professional negligence defense, real estate, energy, trusts and estates.

According to one of those clients -- Rosemary G. Feit, V. P. and Associate General Counsel of General Growth Properties, Inc. -- Collier "stands out" among litigators by approaching "every project, task, and hurdle with perseverance, patience, and aplomb [and by being] a dependable source of prompt, intelligent, well-founded and practical legal advice -- that, best of all, considers what makes sense for the business." A former colleague, Karen L. Levine -- now a Miller Shakman & Beem partner -- added that Collier "can step into a complex case and quickly grasp all of the salient facts and issues."

Kenneth M. Abell, a former colleague and currently an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, praised her written advocacy, stating: "Her written work product strikes the optimal balance between tone and force, always powerful but never strident or obnoxious. Kristen's briefs are truly works of art. She is a tireless perfectionist in all aspects of her work."

Comments like these confirm why Collier's partners stated that Novack and Macey's "clients have come to value Kristen's superb analytical capacity, exceptional writing skills, and efficient case management as much as we do."

Collier is a fierce advocate while maintaining the highest level of professionalism. Thomas C. Koessl -- a Williams Montgomery & John partner -- commented: "Anyone who has the privilege of working with Kristen is certain to be impressed with her. One thing I suspect everyone notices about Kristen is her intelligence. But Kristen brings more than just intellect to the practice of law. Kristen is an absolute professional at all times." Michael C. Bruck, another Williams Montgomery & John partner, similarly observed that Collier is "tenacious, yet professional, and cool under pressure." Feit, echoed that sentiment, extolling Collier's "wonderful combination of toughness and civility" and ability "to balance professionalism and zealous advocacy."

Even the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois judge, who dismissed a multimillion-dollar breach of license and copyright infringement action against Collier's clients, issued an order expressly commending Collier and the other attorneys for their "professionalism, cooperativeness, efficiency and dedication to their clients' interests." "As rare as such comments are from a federal judge, that the remarks were directed towards Kristen comes as no surprise," said Stephanie J. Harris of Goldberg Kohn, whom Collier mentored when she was an associate at Novack and Macey for five years. "Such high praise is entirely in keeping with her standards of work and professionalism."

Many attorneys have benefitted from Collier's sound, insightful professional advice, including Harris, who praises Collier for her mentorship: "Somehow she manages to balance a thriving litigation practice, raising three young children and mentoring young attorneys throughout Chicago. . . . I have witnessed first-hand the involved role Kristen has in her children's lives, and I have often marveled that she has figured out how to 'have it all' -- a goal beyond the reach of those without her professional talents, drive and sensibilities." Abell also remarked that Collier is "very loyal" to her colleagues and firm, noting that "her entire career [has been] at the same firm -- a rarity in this day and age of perpetual movement by younger attorneys."

Notwithstanding the demands on Kristen's time as she and her husband, Paul, raise their three sons and pursue their respective legal practices, she still makes time to serve her community. Among other civic commitments, Collier is a delegate to the Coalition of Women's Initiatives in Law, whose Board proclaimed that "Kristen's energetic leadership both within her firm and through the Coalition, together with her vigorous support of women attorneys, embodies the qualities that others in our profession would do well to emulate."

Collier's stellar advocacy skills, exemplary professionalism and dedicated leadership have earned her high marks from clients, colleagues and industry leaders. Her outstanding reputation in the field of commercial litigation makes her an attorney to watch, and her service to the community, particularly the Coalition, makes her an attorney to follow.



KRISTEN WERRIES COLLIER

age 39

law school University of Illinois
College of Law

area of practice Commercial Litigation

firm Novack and Macey LLP
100 North Riverside Plaza
Suite 1500
Chicago, IL 60606

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