



Kimberly C. Lau

Principal, Chair of Title IX and Education Practice Group

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Kimberly C. Lau is a principal and the chair of the Title IX and Education Practice Group. She focuses her practice on Title IX and all other disciplinary matters, academic issues, special education, defamation, First Amendment, due process and civil rights litigation. Kimberly has represented over 300 students and faculty of all genders, across the country in disciplinary proceedings at colleges and universities. Her cases involve a wide range of issues, including academic dishonesty, theft, harassment, sexual misconduct, and gender discrimination. Kimberly's extensive experience encompasses state and federal litigation, as well as trials, arbitrations, mediations, and appeals in commercial litigation and Title IX and college disciplinary matters.

Accused students turn to Kimberly for her extensive experience in crafting strong defenses and safeguarding their due process rights. Similarly, complainants rely on her professional advocacy and guidance to navigate the disciplinary process while ensuring their rights are upheld and respected. Kimberly's approach is rooted in principles of fairness, accountability, and the unwavering protection of due process. She is committed to achieving transparent and equitable outcomes for all students she represents.

Kimberly is a vocal advocate for preserving the cornerstone principles of the American legal system. She firmly believes that presuming guilt before innocence undermines due process and tirelessly works to protect her clients' fundamental rights.

Over the years, Kimberly has achieved numerous successes both in and out of the courtroom. In 2021, Kimberly obtained a successful settlement for her client, including monetary damages and the award of his diploma, in a high-profile Title IX case against Columbia University following a favorable decision denying Columbia's motion to dismiss in the Southern District of New York.

In 2022, Kimberly achieved a landmark \$5.3 million unanimous jury verdict for a former Clemson University student falsely accused of rape. She successfully pursued defamation and conspiracy claims against three individuals, securing one of the largest verdicts in the region for a private individual plaintiff. Her advocacy also resulted in a pivotal change to South Carolina's legal precedent. Kimberly obtained a writ to the Supreme Court of South Carolina, effectively ending the practice of allowing special referees without jurisdiction to decide discovery motions, further solidifying her impact on legal integrity.

Services

- Commercial Litigation
- Defamation
- Special Education, Accommodations and Discrimination
- Title IX and Education

Kimberly's exceptional experience in Title IX and college disciplinary matters has been featured on national platforms, including CNN, ABC's *Nightline*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. She has also been quoted in major media outlets such as *Newsweek*, *Yahoo News*, *The New York Observer*, and *The Daily Beast*.

Education

- Syracuse University College of Law (J.D.)
- Syracuse University (B.A., *summa cum laude*)

State Bar Admissions

- New York

Court Admissions

- United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York
- United States District Court for the Northern District of New York
- United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- United States District Court for the District of South Carolina
- United States District Court for the District of New Jersey
- United States District Court for the Western District of Texas

Professional Affiliations

- Co-Chair, Title IX Committee, Civil Rights and Social Justice Section, American Bar Association (ABA)

Recognitions

- Selected to New York Metro Super Lawyers® for Schools & Education, Business Litigation and Civil Rights (2022 - 2026)
- Selected to New York Metro Rising Stars® for Schools & Education, Business Litigation and Civil Rights (2014 - 2021)
- Top Woman Lawyer Crain's 40 Under 40 (2019)
- Crain's Notable Women in Law (2020)

Representative Matters

- [Secured Legal Settlement in Virginia Federal Defamation Case](#)
- On March 25, 2022, Kimberly first-chaired a week-long jury trial in South Carolina and obtained a unanimous jury verdict on plaintiff's defamation and civil conspiracy claims

against defendants resulting in an award of \$5.3mm. This was one of the largest verdicts in the area for such causes of action involving a private individual plaintiff. Kimberly's trial win came after nearly five years of litigation, which included depositions of 23 witnesses, approximately 10,000 pages of document discovery, 14 discovery motions, a writ to the Supreme Court of South Carolina that ended the state's longstanding practice of allowing special referees decide discovery motions who were without jurisdiction to do so, and a successful outcome on all seven motions in limine filed before trial.

- In January 2021, Kimberly succeeded on a Motion to Dismiss and achieved a substantial settlement for her client in a high-profile Title IX case against Columbia University. Before any depositions or trial, the parties reached a settlement agreement that, among other terms, restored her client's diploma and amounted to a substantial award of financial damages.
- Obtained favorable settlements for Title IX clients accused of sexual misconduct at major U.S. colleges and universities.
- Obtained \$2 million judgment in a real estate partnership dispute.
- Obtained unanimous jury verdict in adverse possession action.
- Obtained favorable settlement for well-known fiction author involved in a contract dispute with an international publishing company.
- Successfully represented residential homeowner in claim against insurance company for breach of fiduciary duty in connection with damages suffered in Hurricane Sandy.
- Successfully represented partner in multi-million dollar partnership dispute against fellow partners for diverting distributions and fraudulently transferring assets.
- Obtained restraining order on behalf of managing members of a family-owned limited partnership to prevent the improper sale of the partnership's sole asset.