

Colleen E. Coveney | Partner

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Advocating for clients in a variety of civil rights discrimination and retaliation matters, including cases involving sexual assaults and harassment on college campuses, employment discrimination and retaliation, and whistleblower matters.



Public justice has always been something that has been very close to my heart. Although the role I have played making an impact for the public good has evolved over the years, my commitment to the cause has never wavered. Fighting for the rights of workers who have been wronged is critically important to preserving social justice, and I feel incredibly fortunate to be able to help uphold and protect worker's rights on a daily basis.

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Colleen Coveney, a Partner at Katz, Marshall & Banks, joined the firm in 2012. Ms. Coveney represents clients in a range of civil rights and discrimination matters under federal and state anti-discrimination statutes including Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and corresponding state laws. Ms. Coveney also represents whistleblowers in unlawful retaliation cases, as well as individuals submitting tips to the whistleblower-reward programs administered by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

During her time at Katz, Marshall, and Banks, Ms. Coveney has litigated cases in federal and state court, as well as in administrative proceedings before the U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and U.S. Department of Labor. She has also represented numerous employees in cases that have successfully resolved confidentially prior to and during litigation. For instance, in 2014, Ms. Coveney, Debra Katz, and Lisa Banks represented a graduate student at the University of Colorado in a Title IX discrimination and retaliation case that resulted in a \$825,000 settlement, as well as an agreement that the University take steps to eradicate the sexually hostile environment in its Philosophy Department. In 2016, Ms. Coveney, Lisa Banks, and Matthew Stiff represented three former employees of the University of Tennessee in *Moshak et al. v. University of Tennessee*, a Title IX discrimination and retaliation lawsuit that resulted in a total settlement in excess of \$1 million. In 2016, Ms. Coveney and Debra Katz, in conjunction with the National Women's Law Center, represented an OB-GYN and Family Planning fellow in an administration action before the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights against her then employer, a

Washington, D.C. hospital, for its attempts to prohibit her from speaking publicly about abortion.

Ms. Coveney received her undergraduate degree from the University of Georgia, graduating *magna cum laude* with Honors, and her J.D. from Georgia State University College of Law. During law school, Ms. Coveney worked as a law clerk at the American Civil Liberties Union of Georgia where she helped spearhead a human rights documentation project on the immigration detention system in the U.S. Ms. Coveney was also a founding member of the Legal Society for Intimate Partner Violence Education, a student-run organization dedicated to raising awareness about intimate partner violence and the law. Prior to law school, Ms. Coveney worked as a legal assistant at Sullivan & Cromwell, LLP for two years.

Ms. Coveney is admitted to practice in the District of Columbia and Georgia.

Honors & Awards

2019 Super Lawyers "Rising Star" for Washington, D.C.

Affiliations

National Employment Lawyers Association
Metropolitan Washington Employment Lawyers Association

Education

B.A., University of Georgia, magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, 2006

J.D., Georgia State University College of Law, 2011

Bar Admissions

Georgia
District of Columbia