

Taleah E. Jennings

Partner

Contact

+1 212.756.2454

taleah.jennings@srz.com

919 Third Avenue

New York, NY 10022

Member of the firm's Executive Committee, chair of the DEI Committee and co-chair of the Affinity Groups Steering Committee. Advises on complex commercial litigation matters with a primary focus on fiduciary-related issues, including matters raised in trust and estates litigation, shareholder disputes and litigations involving employment-related matters.

Taleah's clients include financial services entities, such as investment managers, private equity firms, interdealer brokerage firms, multiemployer pension funds and commercial real estate firms, and fiduciaries of large trusts and estates. She has litigated cases in various state and federal courts, as well as regulatory and arbitration forums, from the commencement of claims through trials and appeals.

Taleah is recognized as a leading lawyer by:

- *The Legal 500 US*

- *Benchmark Litigation*
- *New York Super Lawyers*

She was named among *Savoy* magazine's Most Influential Black Lawyers and one of *Crain's* Notable Women in Law and Notable Diverse Leaders in Law.

Her awards include:

- Burton Award for Distinguished Legal Writing for the *New York Law Journal* article "Options When a Competitor Raids the Company"
 - Excellence in Pro Bono Advocacy Award by Sanctuary for Families
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Practices

LITIGATION

COMPLEX COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

REAL ESTATE LITIGATION

EMPLOYMENT AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

SPECIAL SITUATIONS AND BANKRUPTCY LITIGATION

SPECIAL SITUATIONS

Bar Admissions

New York

Massachusetts

Court Admissions

US Court of Appeals, Second Circuit

US District Court, Southern District of New York

US District Court, Eastern District of New York

US Court of Appeals, Third Circuit

US District Court, District of Massachusetts

Education

Rutgers Law School, J.D.

University of Maryland, B.S.

Representations

- Represents beneficiary of the estate and various testamentary trusts established by the founder of a multibillion-dollar hedge fund in accounting and other proceedings, including disputes with other beneficiaries over Hamptons' real estate property valued at more than \$160 million.
- Represents the trustee of a testamentary trust with controlling interests in an internationally well-known restaurant enterprise in connection with claims raised by the trust beneficiaries relating to control and management of the trust assets.
- Represents an international sports association in connection with antitrust and contract claims asserted against it by an entity that unsuccessfully bid for opportunity to establish a sporting league, governed by the international organization, in the United States.
- Represented a major interdealer brokerage firm in various arbitrations and civil litigations arising out of a global corporate raid by a fierce competitor, including serving as co-lead counsel in a five-month jury trial resulting in a \$100 million settlement for our client during jury deliberation.
- Successfully defeated alter ego liability claims asserted against a large private equity firm in a case alleging alter ego liability arising out of the alleged contractual breaches by a portfolio company in connection with its provision of services to a large metropolitan public transit authority.
- Defeated contract and defamation claims made against a multibillion-dollar investment firm by a former portfolio manager to whom it provided a \$100 million notional seed capital investment.
- Represented an investment manager in a dispute with a former employee who claimed an ownership interest in tens of millions of dollars of client revenues.
- Successfully defeated brokerage claim on \$1 billion sale of prominent New York City office tower.

- Served as lead counsel on a nine-day trial, obtaining a five-year Order of Protection for a client who suffered severe physical abuse by her husband.

Publications

- “US Supreme Court Affirmative Action Ruling and Potential Impact on Employers,” *Schulte Alert*, Aug. 24, 2023
- Securities Enforcement Quarterly, *Schulte Publication*, February 2023
- “How Asset Managers are Digging In on Diversity to Stand Out from Their Peers,” *ImpactAlpha*, Sept. 26, 2022
- “Lawyer Limelight: Taleah Jennings,” *Lawdragon*, Aug. 22, 2022 (featured)
- Securities Enforcement Quarterly, *Schulte Publication*, August 2022
- Securities Enforcement Quarterly, *Schulte Publication*, May 2022
- Securities Enforcement Quarterly, *Schulte Publication*, January 2022
- “LIBOR Transition Update: New York State Legislature Passes LIBOR Transition Bill,” *Schulte Alert*, March 26, 2021
- “FCA Announces Dates LIBOR Settings Will Cease to Be Provided or Be Representative; ISDA Declares Index Cessation Event and Fixing of Spread Adjustment,” *Schulte Alert*, March 8, 2021
- “LIBOR Transition: ICE Benchmark Administration to Consult on Intent to Cease Publishing USD LIBOR Rates as of Certain Dates; A Possible Temporary Reprieve for Some Rates,” *Schulte Alert*, Dec. 9, 2020
- “Bankruptcy Court Grants Tenant Partial Rent Abatement Under Force Majeure Clause (COVID-19),” *Schulte Alert*, June 29, 2020
- “LIBOR Transition: SEC Announces Examination Initiative,” *Schulte Alert*, June 23, 2020
- “LIBOR Transition Update: ARRC Publishes Best Practices,” *Schulte Alert*, May 28, 2020

- “Overnight LIBOR and SOFR Performance During the COVID-19 Crisis,” *Schulte Alert*, April 22, 2020
- “Penalties, Short-Swing Profits, and Whistleblower Awards,” *Insider Trading Law and Compliance Answer Book* (Practising Law Institute), 2014-2020
- “Congress Passes the Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016,” *Schulte Client Alert*, May 2, 2016, co-author
- “Options When a Competitor Raids the Company,” *New York Law Journal*, May 13, 2015, co-author
- “Bipartisan House Bill Provides Private Right of Action for Misappropriation of Trade Secrets,” *Schulte Client Alert*, Aug. 7, 2014, co-author

Speaking Engagements

- “Employment Focus,” 33rd Annual Schulte Private Capital Forum, January 2024
- “Workplace Considerations and Strategies for Private Fund Managers,” Schulte 32nd Annual Private Investment Funds Seminar, January 2023
- “New York and California Trade Secrets Litigations: Differences and Best Practices,” New York City Bar Association, May 9, 2022
- “Private Funds – Managing Litigation Risk,” Schulte 31st Annual Private Investment Funds Seminar, January 2022
- “Fiduciary Litigation Series: Hunting Horcruxes: Finding and Rightfully Redistributing Assets of Inheritance Theft through NY Surrogate’s Court,” New York City Bar Association, Dec. 6, 2021
- “Fiduciary Litigation Series: Managing Litigation Risk for Corporate Trustees,” New York City Bar Association, Nov. 1, 2021
- “Fiduciary Litigation Series: Anticipating and Preparing for Estate Litigation,” New York City Bar Association, Oct. 4, 2021
- “Navigating the Law of Trade Secrets: Ethical Issues in Trade Secret Cases,” New York City Bar Association, Sept. 10, 2021
- “DEI’s Manifestation in Asset Management and Business: A Look Ahead,” MFA ESG 2021, April 2021
- “The Changing Regulatory Landscape,” Schulte 30th Annual Private Investment Funds Seminar, January 2021
- “Addressing LIBOR Transition Exposure: Considerations for Private Fund Managers,” Schulte Webinar, August 2020
- “A Conversation with Dr. Paul Farmer, Chief Strategist and Co-Founder of Partners In Health,” Schulte 29th Annual Private Investment Funds Seminar, New York, January 2020
- “Avoiding Litigation in Workforce Cases,” Benchmark Women in Litigation East, New York, September 2017

- “Corporate Partnerships: Helping Scholars Become Career Ready,” College For Every Student 19th Annual Conference, Burlington, Vt., October 2015
 - “Who Knows Your Secrets – Recent Trends and Practical Tips When Dealing with Restrictive Covenants and Trade Secrets in Employment ADR,” New York Law Journal and National Arbitration and Mediation Seminar, New York, September 2015
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Memberships

- Advisory Board, LIFT, 2008 – present
- Board of Directors, Sanctuary for Families, 2014 – present
- Trusts, Estates & Surrogates Courts Committee, Board of Directors, New York City Bar Association, 2019 – present

Distinctions

- *Benchmark Litigation*
- *Benchmark Litigation* Under 40 Hot List, 2016
- *The Legal 500 US*
- *Crain's* Notable Women in Law
- *New York Super Lawyers* – Business Litigation, 2022
- *New York Super Lawyers* – Rising Star, 2015-2017
- *Best Lawyers Business Edition* – Trusts and Estates Litigation, Summer 2022
- *Crain's* Notable Diverse Leader in Law
- *Lawyers of Color* – Wonderful Women, 2023
- *Savoy's* Most Influential Black Lawyers, 2018, 2022
- Burton Award for Distinguished Legal Writing, 2016
- New York State Bar Association Empire State Counsel Honoree, 2014
- Sanctuary for Families, Zero Tolerance Award Recipient, 2021
- Sanctuary for Families, Excellence in Pro Bono Advocacy Award Recipient, 2011, 2015, 2017

Prior Experience

- Sullivan & Cromwell, 2003-2007