NUKK-FREEMAN & CERRA, P.C.
EMPLOYMENT ATTORNEYS

CATHERINE A. WILLIAMS, ESQ. cwilliams@nfclegal.com

Of Counsel

Catherine A. Williams has extensive experience in employment counseling, investigations, and litigation, advising clients including corporations, universities, and other non-profit organizations on a full range of employment laws and policies. She focuses her practice on counseling regarding employment policies, practices, and agreements; compliance with anti-discrimination and wage-and-hour laws; advising both in-house counsel and human resources personnel on risk management concerns relating to employee leave and accommodation requests, performance management, and terminations; and negotiating employment and transition agreements for high-level executives. Further, Catherine has extensive experience investigating and advising on the investigation of a wide range of discrimination, harassment, misconduct, and whistleblower complaints, including complaints against senior executives.

Catherine has a special interest in helping her clients set and achieve their workplace inclusion goals and has experience providing training and advising clients on policies, best practices, and legal compliance concerns relating to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging efforts.

AWARDS & HONORS:

- Listed as a "Labor & Employment Star" in Euromoney Institutional Investor PLC's Benchmark: America's Leading Litigation Firms and Attorneys
- Super Lawyers® "Rising Stars", Employment & Labor (2014)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

- Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler, New York, NY
  - Partner (2012 – 2022)
  - Associate (2003 – 2008, 2009- 2011)

JUDICIAL CLERKSHIP:

- Law Clerk to the Honorable Paul G. Gardephe of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York (2008-2009)

BAR ADMISSIONS:

- State of New York (2004)
- State of New Jersey (2023)
- United States District Court, Southern District of New York (2004)
- United States District Court, Eastern District of New York (2006)
- Unites States District Court, Western District of New York (2008)
- United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit (2010)
- United States Court of Appeals - Ninth Circuit Court (2013)
- United States Court of Appeals - Second Circuit Court (2017)

EDUCATION:

- Yale Law School (J.D., 2003)
- Williams College (B.A., 2000)

RECENT SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS:

- Setting Your Organization's DEI Strategy for 2025 (February 2025)
- Structuring DEI Programs and Goals Post the Harvard/UNC Supreme Court Decision, Nukk-Freeman & Cerra PC, Hot Topics in Employment Law Seminar (November 2023)

INTERESTS & INVOLVEMENTS

- New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, Board Member
- City of Hoboken's LGBTQ+ Pride Advisory Committee, Chair

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