

# FormanWatkins

Forman Watkins & Krutz LLP



## Erin Wedge Latuso

### Partner

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In litigation, clients need honesty, not sugar-coating. They need someone who cares deeply about building strong personal relationships and working hard to represent them well. In litigation, clients need Erin Latuso to tell their story. Complex questions don't weigh on Erin; they motivate her. With a mind that thrives on logic and practicality, Erin analyzes both procedure and substance to provide her clients with an in-depth, methodical approach that gives them what they need: the truth and peace of mind.

Before attending law school, Erin worked as a paralegal where she learned the importance of the procedural side of the law. Today, as a lawyer, understanding and emphasizing procedure at every step of litigation allows Erin to successfully navigate the complex issues presented in the Mass Tort, Class Action, and other complex litigation matters that she handles. Not losing sight of the substance, Erin makes it her mission to dig deep into every detail of her client's case, analyzing each issue at its core, so that she can better tell their story. Advising, counseling, and litigating on behalf of her clients in matters involving, Environmental and Toxic Tort, Professional Liability, Commercial and Contract Disputes, Business Tort, and Labor and Employment Law, Erin's practice never gets stale and she looks forward to each new story she has to write. When working with Erin, clients will feel they have an advocate who respects them and works hard in their name simply because she cares.

## Education

- Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, Juris Doctor, December 2007, *magna cum laude*
- Vanderbilt University, B.A. Political Science and Sociology, May 2002, *cum laude*

## Bar Admissions

- Louisiana, 2008

- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
- U.S. District Courts for Eastern, Middle and Western Districts of Louisiana
- U.S. District Court for Southern District of Texas

## Important Litigation Involvement

- Serves as outside associate general counsel for client with large docket of chemical exposure cases
- Represents company in an investment contract and business tort dispute relating to substantial investment
- Breach of contract action against warehouse for improper storage of precious metals.
- Representation of Louisiana manufacturer in Class Actions related to alleged chemical migration and emissions from facilities.
- Successfully argued the Motor Carrier Act exemption to the FLSA applied to entire class of employees where there was a reasonable expectation that an interstate trip could be assigned to any member of the class of employees. *Allen v. Coil Tubing Servs., L.L.C.*, 846 F. Supp. 2d 678 (S.D. Tex. 2012).
- Conducts independent investigations into employee complaints of discrimination, harassment, and retaliation.
- Provides compliance and risk awareness training for management and employees in various areas of Employment Law, including harassment training and FLSA compliance.
- Trains supervisors in effective management techniques.

## Professional Recognition

- *The Best Lawyers in America*® since 2022: Commercial Litigation
- Selected to Louisiana Rising Stars (2016-2020)
- FormanWatkins Pro Bono Star, 2020
- Selected as a Top Lawyer for Labor & Employment Law by New Orleans Magazine (2019)



## Organization/Committee Memberships

- Committee on Bar Admissions, Head Examiner for the Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure Section
- Society for Human Resources Management

## Speaking Engagements

- "Women's Personal and Professional Development Workshop Series: Becoming Your Best Self: Take Command, Be Empowered and Own Your Future," LSBA Midyear Meeting, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- "Becoming Your Best Self: Take Command, Be Empowered, and Own Your Future," LSBA/LJC Summer School, Destin, Florida
- "Mass Tort 'Death Penalty' Issues - Key Recent Developments," HarrisMartin's MDL Conference: Critical Developments in Mass Torts, MDLs, and Game-Changing Jurisprudence, New Orleans, Louisiana
- "The Current Landscape: The Silence Breakers, Pay Equity & Creating Change," Women in Law Summit, Houston, Texas
- "Turning Words into Actions," Perrin Diversity & Inclusion Conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- "Top 8 at 8:00 a.m., Eight Ways To Keep Your Practice In Check and Compliant With Employment Laws," Presenter, Fundamentals Conference of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, New Orleans, Louisiana

## Pro Bono & Community Service

- Assistant Bar Examiner for the Committee on Bar Admissions of the Supreme Court of Louisiana
- CASA Jefferson Volunteer Event Coordinator

## Law School Honors & Awards

- Highest grade achieved in Common Law Contracts for Civil Law Students and Comparative Law courses
- William L. Crowe Scholar

## Previous Experience

- Prior to joining FormanWatkins, Erin was a Partner with the law firm of Cotten Schmidt & Abbott, L.L.P., where she handled various litigation matters and served as outside general counsel for clients.

## Practice Areas

- Asbestos
- Benzene
- Class Actions
- Commercial Litigation
- Labor & Employment Law
- Product Liability
- Premises Liability
- Professional Liability