HUSCH BLACKWELL



Kayla Schmidt

SENIOR ASSOCIATE

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OVERVIEW

Kayla resolves client matters by anticipating potential pathways in complex commercial litigation.

As a devoted commercial litigator collaborating on the firm's Technology, Manufacturing and Transportation teams, Kayla counsels both small businesses and some of the nation's largest corporations. She represents clients in state and federal courts regarding:

- Product liability claims, including recall and warranty claims
- Complex business litigation, contract disputes and fiduciary litigation
- Insurance coverage disputes and litigation

Kayla handles all stages of the commercial litigation process, developing strategic legal arguments and working closely with each client to align litigation goals with unique business outcomes. Kayla also works on pre-litigation claims stemming from product liability issues and recalls, guiding manufacturing clients in all aspects of product safety. On behalf of clients, Kayla values being part of a litigation firm environment that works from offices coast to coast, affording depth and experience to scale agile teams customized to defend client issues of any size or complexity.

Industries

Manufacturing
Technology
Transportation

Services

Class Action Defense
Commercial Litigation
eDiscovery Solutions
Litigation & Alternative Dispute Resolution
Product Liability
Toxic Tort

Featured Experience

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$2.9 Million Secured in High Stakes Contract Dispute

Kayla's courtroom presence was instrumental in winning a $2,934,961.13 judgment in favor of LMI Aerospace concerning the breach of a supplier agreement. Kayla's leadership also allowed the client to completely defeat a $15,000,000 counterclaim asserted by the defendant. The judgment included over $1,000,000 in attorneys' fees and prejudgment interest awarded by the court, finding that Kayla's work was "excellent" in a complex case. *LMI Aerospace, Inc. v. Intelsat Inflight, LLC*, Case No. 209L009002 (Cook County Circuit Court).

Experience

- Obtained voluntary dismissal for water heater manufacturer after aggressively pursuing lack of evidence for matter where plaintiff alleged third-degree burns from a hotel shower.
- Obtained summary judgment and multi-million-dollar attorney fee award in products liability matter.
- Successfully mediated wrongful death case involving employee's operation of a forklift at client's warehouse.
- Obtained dismissal at pleading stage for tire manufacturer in matter involving highway accident.
- Obtained dismissal on behalf of component tool manufacturer in product liability case involving traumatic brain injury with $20M in claims.
- Assisted in obtaining summary judgment in personal/injury product liability case where plaintiff alleged that our client's product had improper warnings which led to a chemical explosion.
- Served as trial counsel for complex commercial dispute involving various engineering and supply contracts for client in the aerospace industry. Secured $2M verdict and successfully defended $12M counterclaim at trial.
- Obtained defense verdict at trial in a commercial lease dispute in Illinois state court.

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Recognition

- *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America*
  - Commercial Litigation, 2026 and 2027
  - Product Liability Litigation - Defendants, 2026 and 2027
- Illinois Super Lawyers, Rising Star, 2024-2026

Education

- J.D. , DePaul University College of Law
  - *magna cum laude*
  - Order of the Coif
  - *DePaul Law Review*
  - CALI Award for highest grade in Legal Drafting: Civil Litigation
- B.A., University of Wisconsin-Madison

Admissions

- Illinois
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Wisconsin



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