

Margaret E. Caldwell

Litigation & Corporate Counsel

+1 (312) 555-0182 mcaldwell@meridianlegal.com Chicago, Illinois

Professional Summary

Accomplished attorney with over fourteen years of experience in complex commercial litigation, corporate governance, and regulatory compliance. Proven track record of securing favorable outcomes in multi-jurisdictional disputes and advising Fortune 500 clients on risk mitigation strategies. Adept at leading cross-functional legal teams, managing high-stakes negotiations, and delivering pragmatic counsel to C-suite executives and boards of directors.

Bar Admissions & Credentials

- Illinois (2009)
- U.S. District Court, N.D. Ill.
- U.S. Supreme Court (2018)
- New York (2010)
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 7th Cir.
- Certified Mediator

Professional Experience

Meridian Law Group

Partner | Litigation & Corporate Practice

Chicago, IL
2018 – Present

Lead the firm's commercial litigation division, overseeing a team of 18 associates and four partners across offices in Chicago, New York, and San Francisco. Manage a portfolio of 40+ active matters encompassing breach of contract, shareholder derivative suits, intellectual property disputes, and antitrust defense. Serve as outside general counsel to three mid-market technology firms, providing strategic guidance on M&A transactions, employment matters, and regulatory filings.

- Secured a \$94M jury verdict in a trade secret misappropriation case against a multinational competitor, later affirmed on appeal before the Seventh Circuit.
- Negotiated a \$210M settlement in a multi-district antitrust class action, reducing client exposure by 62% from initial demand.
- Advised Vertex Technologies through its \$340M Series D financing and subsequent acquisition by Apex Holdings, managing all due diligence and regulatory approvals.
- Grew practice revenue by 215% over five years through strategic lateral hiring and client development initiatives.

Nexa & Synapse LLP

Senior Associate | Complex Litigation

New York, NY
2012 – 2018

Managed all phases of civil litigation from complaint through trial and appeal for Fortune 500 clients in the financial services, healthcare, and energy sectors. Drafted and argued dispositive motions, conducted over 60 depositions, and served as second chair in three federal jury trials. Developed and implemented e-discovery protocols that reduced document review costs by an average of 35%.

- Successfully defended Nimbus Financial Corp. in a \$78M securities fraud class action, obtaining dismissal with prejudice at the pleading stage.
- Authored an amicus curiae brief cited by the U.S. Supreme Court in a landmark arbitration enforcement decision.
- Designed and led firm-wide CLE program on emerging data privacy regulations, training over 200 attorneys across five offices.

Office of the Attorney General, Illinois

Assistant Attorney General | Civil Litigation Division

Chicago, IL

2009 – 2012

Represented the State of Illinois in federal and state court proceedings involving constitutional challenges, regulatory enforcement actions, and government contracts disputes. Conducted internal investigations and collaborated with federal agencies on multi-state enforcement matters.

- First-chaired six bench trials and two jury trials, prevailing in all eight matters.
- Led a multi-state investigation into fraudulent marketing practices that resulted in a \$47M consent decree and restitution for affected consumers.
- Drafted legislation amending the Illinois Consumer Fraud Act, subsequently enacted with bipartisan support.

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Education

Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law

Chicago, IL

Juris Doctor, cum laude | *Senior Editor, Northwestern University Law Review*

2006 – 2009

- Order of the Coif; Julius H. Miner Moot Court Competition, Champion (2008).
- Published Note: *Reconciling Federal Preemption with State Consumer Protection Statutes*, 103 Nw. U. L. Rev. 847 (2009).

University of Michigan

Ann Arbor, MI

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science & Economics, magna cum laude | *Phi Beta Kappa*

2002 – 2006

- James B. Angell Scholar; recipient of the William J. Branstrom Prize.

Professional Affiliations & Leadership

Chicago Bar Association Chair, Commercial Litigation Committee (2020–Present)

American Bar Association Section of Litigation, Co-Chair of Trial Practice Subcommittee

Federal Bar Association Member, Judicial Selection Committee

Seventh Circuit Bar Association Life Member; Program Committee (2017–2022)

Legal Aid Chicago Board of Directors; Governance Committee Chair

Publications & Speaking Engagements

- **Panelist**, “Emerging Trends in Trade Secret Litigation After the Defend Trade Secrets Act,” ABA Annual Conference, San Francisco (2023).
- **Co-Author**, “Navigating Multi-Jurisdictional Class Actions: A Practical Guide for Corporate Counsel,” *Chicago Bar Association Record*, Vol. 37 (2022).
- **Keynote Speaker**, “Ethics and E-Discovery: Managing Burdens Without Compromising Obligations,” Illinois Judicial Conference (2021).
- **Author**, “Shareholder Derivative Suits in the Age of #MeToo: Expanding the Caremark Doctrine,” *Journal of Corporation Law*, Vol. 45 (2020).

Representative Matters

Vertex Tech. v. Apex Holdings Lead counsel in \$94M trade secret misappropriation trial; unanimous jury verdict affirmed on appeal (2022).

In re: Pharmaceutical Pricing Antitrust Litig. Co-lead counsel for defendant consortium in MDL-2847; \$210M global settlement (2020).

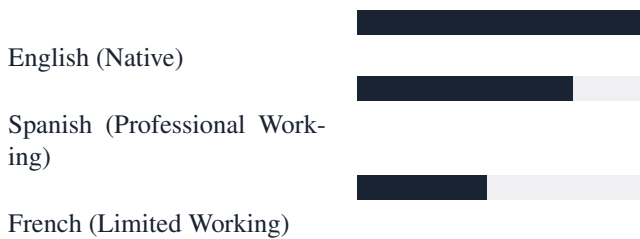
Illinois ex rel. Caldwell v. Meridian Marketing Grp. First-chaired consumer fraud enforcement action; \$47M consent decree (2011).

Delaware Chancery: Synapse Inv. v. Nimbus Capital Defended private equity sponsor against fiduciary duty claims; motion to dismiss granted (2019).

Core Competencies

- Complex Commercial Litigation
- Class Action & MDL Defense
- Corporate Governance & Compliance
- Internal Investigations
- Trade Secret & IP Litigation
- Antitrust & Securities Defense
- M&A Due Diligence & Integration
- Employment Law Counseling
- Regulatory Agency Practice
- Mediation & Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Data Privacy (GDPR, CCPA)
- E-Discovery Strategy & Management

Language Proficiency



References, writing samples, and full representative-matter list available upon request.