SQUIRE PATTON BOGGS

Kate Kim Tuma

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Languages spoken
English | Korean



About Kate

A trusted adviser to some of the world's largest car companies, Kate Tuma regularly advises their corporate strategy teams, helping them navigate regulatory compliance, policy, and geopolitical issues impacting the automotive industry and her clients' global operations.

As an 18-year veteran of the firm and leader of the firm's Automotive Industry Group, she brings a cross-practice, multidisciplinary perspective to every matter. Kate frequently leverages the firm's global network of legal professionals to deliver effective and efficient solutions tailored to her clients' needs.

Widely regarded as a pragmatic problem-solver, Kate is frequently called upon to identify critical resources and develop tailored solutions to meet automotive companies' evolving needs. In addition to her transactional practice, she advises on multijurisdictional internal investigations, pre-dispute, and litigation matters, and works closely with the firm's arbitration and trial teams on antitrust, complex commercial, distressed asset and project finance disputes. For over five years, she successfully defended one of the world's leading packaged food companies in a global antitrust investigation and lawsuit. She also served as the interim director of litigation and associate general counsel for a publicly traded Japanese financial group from 2019 to 2020, further deepening her client-focused perspective and fully integrated, comprehensive approach to providing value added services.

Kate's global insights are rooted in nearly a decade spent as an associate and partner in the firm's Tokyo and Seoul offices (2008-2017). Now based in Los Angeles, she is one of the few women leading a global law firm's automotive industry group. She was recently named a 2024 Law Firm Visionary by the *Los Angeles Times*, and she and her team members are consistently recognized for excellence by *Chambers*, the *Los Angeles Business Journal,* and *Legal 500 Asia Pacific*.

Kate is an adjunct professor at the University of Southern California Gould School of Law. She is a volunteer lawyer with LAFLA Domestic Violence Clinic and Chicago Pro Bono Network's Incarcerated Survivor's Project. She serves on the National Advocates Council for Back On My Feet; and is also a proud member of the Pinniped Patrol with the Marine Mammal Center and sheep docent with Channel Islands Restoration.

Credentials

Education

- University of Chicago, J.D., Ruth Wyatt Rosenson Scholar
- University of California, Berkeley, B.A.

Admissions

- California
- Hawaii
- U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
- Illinois
- U.S. Dist. Ct., N. Dist. of Illinois

Expertise

Services

- Corporate

Industries

- Automotive & Transportation

About our firm

One of the world's strongest integrated law firms, providing insight at the point where law, business and government meet. We deliver commercially focused business solutions by combining our legal, lobbying and political capabilities and invaluable connections on the ground to a diverse mix of clients, from long-established leading corporations to emerging businesses, startup visionaries and sovereign nations. More than 1,500 lawyers in over 40 offices across four continents provide unrivaled access to expertise.