

# Valerie H. Brummel

## Associate

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With commercial litigator Valerie Brummel, clients do not have to sacrifice quality for speed, or vice versa. When the situation calls for a strong response in a short amount of time, Valerie meets the challenge.

Valerie focuses her practice on defending corporate clients from commercial breach of contract claims, business torts, and class actions. Whether the dispute arose from a longstanding business relationship or a single disgruntled customer, Valerie persuasively presents her client's point of view and the supporting law. Clients have been thrilled by Valerie's ability to fight off temporary restraining orders and preliminary injunctions, handle politically sensitive cases, and advise on complex and novel legal issues while under the pressure of a ticking clock.

Valerie gained valuable insight about judicial decision-making as a law clerk for a federal judge in Chicago. While in that unique position, Valerie monitored more than 150 cases at the same time. She routinely advised the judge on short notice, for example regarding evidentiary rulings or in emergency hearings. Valerie also managed several criminal and civil trials, serving as the point-of-contact for the attorneys throughout multiple stages such as pretrial motion practice, jury selection, and entry of judgment.

Valerie uses her law degree for community service and pro bono work as well. She has advocated on behalf of the innocent in both criminal appeals and Section 1983 civil suits. In 2018, she won habeas corpus relief from a federal judge in Chicago, ending 15 years of wrongful incarceration for her client. In 2019, she obtained temporary protection under DACA for a young immigrant from Mexico.



## EXPERIENCE

### Clerkships

Law Clerk, Hon. Andrea R. Wood, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois (2018-2019)

Judicial Extern, Hon. Robert M. Dow, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois (2014)

### Representative Engagements

- Defended several Fortune Global 500 companies in commercial disputes involving claims of breach of contract, breach of the duty of good faith and fair dealing, tortious interference, fraud, fraudulent misrepresentation, unfair competition, conversion, and conspiracy.
- Defended several Fortune Global 500 companies against putative class actions across the country, including federal courts in California, Illinois, and Indiana.
- Successfully obtained denial of motion for temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction in commercial dispute between manufacturer and distributor.

- Defended prestigious university in racial and sexual discrimination and harassment lawsuit.
- Conducted multiple Title IX investigations at elite liberal arts college in New York.
- Written ethics opinions and policies for a municipal body politic.

## CREDENTIALS

### Education

Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, J.D., 2017, *cum laude*  
Center on Wrongful Convictions  
Deputy Managing Editor, *Journal of Criminal Law & Criminology*  
Teaching Assistant: Torts  
Foundation of the Federal Bar Association Robert A. McNew Scholar  
Kirkland & Ellis Scholar, Criminal Law  
John Henry Wigmore Scholar  
University of Michigan, B.A., Psychology, 2013, *with honors*  
James B. Angell Scholar

### Bar Admissions

Illinois  
Michigan  
U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois  
U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana

### Honors & Awards

2022 Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch (Commercial Litigation), *Best Lawyers*®

## PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

"The Development of Qualified Immunity, How It Has Shielded Unprecedented Police Misconduct, and What Lies Ahead," (author) *Illinois State Bar Association's Bench & Bar Section Newsletter* (June 2020, vol. 50, no. 8)  
"Illinois Imposes Price Controls in Wake of COVID-19," (co-author) (March 26, 2020)  
"Perfect timing: The right time to release legal holds," (co-author) *Illinois State Bar Association's Bench & Bar Section Council Newsletter* (July 2018, vol. 49, no. 1)  
*Parental Kidnapping, Criminal Contempt of Court, and the Double Jeopardy Clause: A Recommendation for State Courts*, (author) 106 J. Crim. L. & Criminology 315 (2016)