



Michael K. Kim

Principal

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Michael Kim is an experienced first-chair trial attorney with significant experience managing all phases of litigation. He focuses his practice on corporate and individual clients in a wide range of complex civil and commercial matters in proceedings in state courts in Northern Virginia and in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Michael regularly litigates complex disputes involving breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty, misappropriation of trade secrets, and other business torts. He has significant experience in litigating disputes involving partnerships and limited liability companies, corporate governance and control, and shareholder derivative actions. Michael has also represented fiduciaries and beneficiaries in will contests and in other varieties of trust and estate litigation.

Michael holds a B.A., cum laude, from Columbia University and a JD, cum laude from the University of Miami School of Law.

Practice Areas

- Civil Litigation
- Education Law and Litigation
- Legal Malpractice Defense
- Wills, Trusts & Estates

Education

- University of Miami School of Law (*cum laude*, 2007)
- Columbia University (*cum laude*, 2004)

Bar Admissions

- Virginia State Bar, 2011
- Fourth Circuit, 2016
- Eastern District of Virginia, 2012
- Eastern District of Virginia Bankruptcy Court, 2013

Professional Honors & Activities

Professional Honors

- *Arlington Magazine*, Top Lawyers, Business/Corporate, (2022-2024)
- *Virginia Business Magazine*, Legal Elite, Civil Litigation, (2020)
- *Virginia Business Magazine*, Legal Elite, Business Law (2023-2024)
- *U.S. News - Best Lawyers in America*: Ones to Watch, Commercial Litigation, Education Law, and Trusts and Estates (2021-2025)
- *Virginia Super Lawyers*, Rising Star, (2013-2017)
- *Virginia Super Lawyers*, Super Lawyer, (2024)
- *Washington DC Super Lawyers*, Rising Star, (2014-2017)
- *Virginia Business Magazine*, Legal Elite, Young Lawyers' Category, (2013)
- *Lawyers of Color Magazine*, Hot List, Mid-Atlantic Region, (2013)

Professional Activities

Virginia State Bar

- Fifth District Disciplinary Committee, Vice-Chair (Section I), 2020; Member 2018-present

Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Virginia

- Board of Directors, 2016-present
- Chair, Judicial Screening Committee, 2016-present

Representative Cases

- Defended the retired chairman of a private forest products company against claim that a gift of voting stock triggered the company's option to redeem the stock in order to prevent a change of control.

- Defended the founder and former COO of a transportation and logistics management company against business tort and conspiracy claims after he resigned to join a competitor.
- Defended the trustee of a revocable inter vivos trust against claims that the settlor/husband's transfer of his stock in a real estate holding company to the trust was void due to lack of capacity and undue influence by the trustee/wife.
- Defended a private corrections company against third party claims for the indemnification and contribution arising out of alleged transmission of HIV from the mother/inmate to fetus during a non-Caesarian Section delivery while inmate was incarcerated at jail managed by the corrections company.
- Defended the manager of two Virginia limited liability companies before the American Arbitration Association against claims asserted by members of the two companies seeking removal of the manager for alleged material breaches of the companies' operating agreements and bad faith.
- Obtained preliminary injunction on behalf of a government contracting company specializing in providing information technology services to the federal government against a former employee who had stolen and posted the company's trade secrets.

News & Insights

- Blankingship & Keith Attorneys Recognized Among Virginia Business Magazine's Legal Elite
- Eleven Blankingship & Keith Attorneys Recognized as Top Attorneys in Arlington Magazine's 2024 List
- Twenty-Seven Blankingship & Keith Attorneys Shine in the 2025 Edition of Best Lawyers in America
- Twenty Blankingship & Keith, P.C. Attorneys Named Virginia Super Lawyers and Rising Stars for 2024
- Blankingship & Keith's Personal Injury Lawyers Secure Three Major Settlements Totaling \$6.675M, Recognized in Virginia Lawyers Weekly
- Blankingship & Keith Attorneys Shine as "Legal Elite" in Virginia Business Magazine's 2023 Rankings
- Thirteen Blankingship & Keith Attorneys Recognized as Top Attorneys by Arlington Magazine
- Twenty-two Blankingship & Keith Attorneys Shine in the 2024 Edition of Best Lawyers in America
- Blankingship & Keith, P.C. Attorneys Named Virginia Super Lawyers and Rising Stars for 2023
- Blankingship & Keith Principal Michael K. Kim Named "Go To Lawyer" for Business Litigation by Virginia Lawyers Weekly.