

# Linda M. Watson

## Member

**Linda Watson**, Chair of the firm's Automotive and Manufacturing Industry group, represents businesses and public corporations in business and commercial litigation, supply chain matters, contractual actions, property issues, and copyright and trademark law.

Linda has significant trial experience as lead counsel in state and federal court, as well as in arbitrations and other dispute venues. Her clients include some of the most innovative companies and manufacturers, including automotive suppliers, dedicated to embracing new technologies and strategies to stay steps ahead of an ever-changing landscape.

Linda is the first woman elected by her equity peers to the firm's Executive Committee and helped to lead the firm in this role through its most significant mergers and growth. Linda also manages the firm's largest industry practice group and a multi-disciplinary collaborative team focused on helping clients navigate the road ahead. In addition, Linda is Co-Chair of BOLD, an auxiliary group within the Diversity & Inclusion Committee, whose goal is to encourage the professional growth and promotion of women in the firm, the legal industry and the global business community.

Linda firmly believes in continuous improvement and growth. She was accepted and is enrolled in Stanford University's Innovation and Entrepreneurship Certificate Program sponsored by the School of Engineering and she is a recent graduate of the Northwestern University Leading Diversity Equity and Inclusion Certification Program earning her certification to lead DEI in 2020.

In addition, Linda is a graduate of the National Trial Institute for Trial Advocacy, one of the leading institutions for intensive professional training in the art and skills of trial advocacy and was invited by Mathew Bender to be the Content Editor for Michigan Pretrial Civil Procedure a Lexis Nexis Practice Guide first published originally in 2016 and updated in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020.

### EXPERIENCE:

- Represented a world class manufacturer of advanced automation and control systems in successfully obtaining injunctive relief to protect and enjoin the use of highly confidential and proprietary data and trade secrets.
- Represented an emerging technologies company in a dispute involving the breach of a supply agreement and assisted in securing a multi-million-dollar settlement.
- Served as lead trial counsel in a breach of warranty case on behalf of a company engaged in the production and development of thermal interface materials and automated applications and after a week-long jury trial in federal court obtained a significant damages award against the defendant.
- Awarded a temporary restraining order on behalf of a technology driven manufacturer in a lawsuit involving the ownership of specialized tooling prevented the collapse of an on-demand supply chain.
- Served as a member of a small trial team that successfully protected a patent involving a fuel hose from infringement and a patent challenge obtaining a judgment that upheld the patent as a narrow improvement in a crowded art.
- Defended a shareholder dispute involving a closely held automotive supplier and obtained summary dismissal of all the complaint while winning a favorable money judgment on a counterclaim at trial.

### Practices, Industries & Services

Automotive & Manufacturing  
Litigation

### Areas of Emphasis

Commercial Litigation  
Discovery Services  
Employment Litigation  
Trust and Estate Controversy



### Office

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### Education

J.D., cum laude, Michigan State  
University College of Law, East  
Lansing, Michigan, 1991

B.A., Oakland University, Rochester  
Hills, Michigan, 1987

### State Bar Licenses

Michigan

### Court Admissions

U.S. Court of Appeals, 6th Circuit

## Memberships

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- American Bar Association
  - Federal Bar Association
  - State Bar of Michigan
  - Oakland County Bar Association

## Honors

- Named among Best Lawyers in America - Commercial Litigation by Best Lawyers (2021)

## Presentations

- "What to do When the IRS Comes Calling: Dealing with IRS Controversies" Webinar
- WEBINAR: The Trump Administration's First 100 Days: In-House Guide to Key Policy & Regulatory Developments
- WEBINAR: The Trump Card: Effectively Using Demands for Adequate Assurance of Performance
- WEBINAR: The Antitrust Refresher You Really Might Need
- DON'T PULL THAT CREDIT REPORT SO FAST: The New Pitfalls of Employee Background Checks, Webinar, January 2018
- WEBINAR: Drafting Liability-Limiting Clauses for In-House Counsel
- WEBINAR: Cybersecurity For In-House Counsel: Achieving Compliance (and Beyond) in a Breach-A-Day World
- WEBINAR: Anticipating the 2016 Election Results: What Corporate Law Departments Need to Know
- WEBINAR: Going, Gone, Global: What In-House Attorneys Need to Know About Immigration Law
- WEBINAR: What To Do When The Government Comes Knocking (In-House Counsel)
- WEBINAR: Enforcement Actions for In-House Counsel
- WEBINAR: In-House Economics for 2016: Managing the Supply and Demand for Legal Services in Law Departments