



Laura G. Ferguson

MEMBER
PRACTICE LEAD, COMPLEX CIVIL LITIGATION

Laura Ferguson specializes in appellate litigation and resolving complex litigation matters through dispositive motions. She has won dismissals in a dozen cases on motions to dismiss or for summary judgment and has won numerous appeals, including a unanimous decision from the Supreme Court. Ms. Ferguson is skilled at finding the winning argument and crafting clear, readable, accurate, persuasive briefs that get results for her clients. She also regularly submits *amicus* briefs at the Supreme Court and Courts of Appeals on behalf of clients on a wide range of issues.

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PRACTICES

Business and Human Rights
Complex Civil Litigation
ERISA & Employee Benefits
Litigation
Supreme Court & Appellate
Litigation
Tax Controversy & Litigation

EDUCATION

- J.D.
The University of Texas School
of Law
with honors
1991
- B.A.
College of William and Mary
Phi Beta Kappa
1985

With 20 years of experience as a litigator, Ms. Ferguson has extensive experience in all aspects of civil litigation, including managing the fact and expert discovery process (including foreign discovery) and preparing the case for trial. In managing the discovery process, her approach is to stay focused on the issues that matter to her client, being strategic in when to bring issues to the court and to avoid being drawn into costly, needless sparring with opposing counsel. Her representations often involve high stakes, multi-year litigation involving issues of first impression. Her engagements have spanned a variety of subject areas, including the creditability of foreign taxes, whether non-sovereign foreign governmental organizations can be sued under various human rights statutes, the extra-territorial reach of U.S. patent laws, the constitutionality of USDA administrative claims resolution process and the scope of ERISA preemption.

REPRESENTATIVE ENGAGEMENTS

- *Mohamad v. Palestinian Authority*, 132 S. Ct. 1702 (2012) (won unanimous decision holding that corporations and other organizational defendants cannot be sued for international human rights violations under the Torture Victim Protection Act).
- *Moon v. Moon*, 2019 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 220105 (Dec. 19, 2019) (won motion to dismiss multi-count complaint on ecclesiastical abstention grounds).
- *FFWPUI v. Moon*, No. 2011 CA3721, Superior Court, District of Columbia (Mar. 28, 2019) (won motion for summary judgment on breach of fiduciary duty claim).
- *Shafi v. Palestinian Authority*, 642 F.3d 1088 (DC Cir. 2011) (secured affirmance of dismissal of Alien Tort Statute lawsuit for failure to satisfy state action requirement).
- *Estate of Ahuva Amergi v. Palestinian Authority*, 611 F.3d 1350 (11th Cir. 2010) (secured affirmance of dismissal of Alien Tort Statute lawsuit for failure to establish violation of the law of nations).
- *Gilmore v. Palestinian Interim Self-Government Auth.*, No. 01-853, 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 102093 (D.DC July 28, 2014) (won motion for summary judgment in suit brought under U.S. Anti-Terrorism Act).
- *Cantu v. United States*, No. 13-5044, 565 Fed. Appx. 7; 2014 U.S. App. LEXIS 12886 (D.C. Cir. 2014) (won reversal of dismissal for lack of standing in Equal Protection Clause case).

- *Estate of Klieman v. Palestinian Auth.*, No. 04-1173, 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 25167 (D.DC Mar. 3, 2015) (won dismissal for lack of personal jurisdiction on a motion for reconsideration, for a case that had been pending for ten years).
- *Safra v. Palestinian Auth.*, No. 14-669, 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 16492 (D.DC Feb. 11, 2015) (won motion to dismiss for lack of personal jurisdiction).
- *Livnat v. Palestinian Auth.*, No. 14-668, 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 16522 (D.DC Feb. 11, 2015) (won motion to dismiss for lack of personal jurisdiction).
- *Ungar v. Palestine Liberation Organization*, 599 F.3d 79 (1st Cir. 2010) (obtained reversal of district court decision denying Rule 60(b)(6) relief from \$116 million final default judgment).
- *Black & Decker Corp. v. United States*, 436 F.3d 431 (4th Cir. 2006) (secured affirmance of motion for summary judgment on statutory basis for tax treatment of contingent liability transaction; remanded on economic substance).
- *Brubaker v. Metropolitan Life Ins. Co.*, 2007 U.S. App. LEXIS 8209 (DC Cir. Apr. 10, 2007) (secured affirmance of district court's grant of summary judgment in client's favor on issue of ERISA plan interpretation).

ADMISSIONS

Bar Admissions

- District of Columbia

Court Admissions

- United States Supreme Court
- United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
- United States District Court for the District of Columbia
- United States District Court for the District of Maryland
- United States Tax Court