



Todd & Weld LLP

Christian G. Kiely

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Christian Kiely regularly represents clients in state and federal trial and appellate courts.

Christian G. Kiely concentrates his practice on business litigation, representing companies and individuals in a wide range of commercial disputes. He also represents clients in matters involving defamation and First Amendment law, government investigations, and white-collar criminal defense.

Recent representative accomplishments of Mr. Kiely include:

- [Negotiating a widely-publicized settlement](#) on behalf of prominent attorney Alan Dershowitz, in which a woman who had accused him of sexual abuse agreed to dismiss her claim in exchange for no money and to issue a statement acknowledging that she “may have made a mistake” in identifying Mr. Dershowitz as one of her abusers
- Persuading the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court to [revive a regulatory taking claim](#) alleging that the Massachusetts Gaming Commission, in order to punish the firm’s client for perceived malfeasance during the casino licensing process, unconstitutionally coerced the firm’s client into accepting a \$40 million reduction in the sales price for land that it sold to Wynn Resorts for the development of the Encore Boston Harbor Resort
- Representing parents charged in the “Varsity Blues” college admissions prosecution
- Obtaining a [defense verdict](#) following a bench trial defeating a commercial tenant’s claim in Massachusetts Superior Court for more than \$7 million based on alleged interference in a build out of a Domino’s Pizza franchise location

Prior to entering private practice, Mr. Kiely previously served as a law clerk to United States District Court Judge Douglas P. Woodlock, and Associate Justice Robert J. Cordy of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial

Court.

He graduated first in his class from Suffolk University Law School in 2012 and is a 2009 graduate of Dartmouth College.

Practice Areas

- Business Litigation
- Government Investigations and Criminal Defense
- Media, First Amendment, and Defamation Law

Representative Results

- [Negotiated a widely-publicized settlement](#) on behalf of prominent attorney Alan Dershowitz, in which a woman who had accused him of sexual abuse agreed to dismiss her claim in exchange for no money and to issue a statement acknowledging that she “may have made a mistake” in identifying Mr. Dershowitz as one of her abusers
- Persuaded the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court to [revive a regulatory taking claim](#) alleging that the Massachusetts Gaming Commission, in order to punish the firm’s client for perceived malfeasance during the casino licensing process, unconstitutionally coerced the firm’s client into accepting a \$40 million reduction in the sales price for land that it sold to Wynn Resorts for the development of the Encore Boston Harbor Resort
- Won the dismissal of a \$20 million claim for breach of an “earnout” provision in a commercial real estate contract after convincing a Massachusetts Superior Court judge that the language in the contract barred the claim
- Convinced a Massachusetts Superior Court judge to dismiss a \$1 billion claim seeking to effectively undo the Massachusetts Gaming Commission’s award of a casino license to Wynn Resorts over a competing bid by the owners of the former Suffolk Downs racetrack, based on allegations that the firm’s client conspired with Wynn to corrupt the licensing process through fraud and other alleged wrongdoing
- Obtained a [defense verdict](#) following a bench trial defeating a commercial tenant’s claim in Massachusetts Superior Court for more than \$7 million based on alleged interference in a build out of a Domino’s Pizza franchise location
- Persuaded a Massachusetts Superior Court judge to [deny the request of a salesman for a class action arbitration](#) against his former auto dealership employer
- Obtained a [\\$775,000 settlement](#) in a medical malpractice case involving a 57-year-old man who died following the delayed diagnosis of a perforated peptic ulcer
- Earned a rare win in overcoming a summary judgment motion in a federal suit brought on behalf of the former captain of the Yale University men’s basketball team against Yale, claiming that it had discriminated against him and wrongfully expelled him for alleged sexual misconduct, in violation of its own rules and regulations.

Experience

- Todd & Weld LLP, 2016-present
- Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP, 2014-2016
- Law Clerk, U.S. District Court Judge Douglas P. Woodlock, 2013-2014
- Law Clerk, Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Justice Robert J. Cordy, 2012-2013

Bar Admissions

- Massachusetts, 2012
- U.S. District Court, Massachusetts

Education

- Suffolk University Law School (J.D., *summa cum laude*) Daniel J. Fern Award, graduating first in class; Note Editor, Suffolk University Law Review (2012)
- Dartmouth College (B.A.)

Professional Activities

- Massachusetts Bar Association
- Boston Bar Association

Honors and Awards

- Named to *Best Lawyers in America: Ones to Watch* for Criminal Defense: White Collar, 2022-2025
- Named by *Super Lawyers* as a Massachusetts in Business Litigation, 2024-2025
- Named by *Super Lawyers* to Massachusetts Rising Stars for Business Litigation, 2021-2022

News & Insights

- Christian Kiely elected to partnership at Todd & Weld LLP
- Christian Kiely in podcast discusses Netflix defamation suit
- Law360 features recent success of firm in Netflix defamation suit
- 30 Todd & Weld attorneys named 2022 Massachusetts Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
- Eight Todd & Weld attorneys recognized in 2023 Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in America
- 30 Todd & Weld attorneys named 2021 Massachusetts Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
- Eight Todd & Weld attorneys selected to Ones to Watch from Best Lawyers
- Firm win denying class action arbitration featured in MA Lawyers Weekly
- Howard Cooper featured in article on high-profile defamation case

Results

- Judge allows \$37.5M Encore Casino fraud suit to proceed to trial
- Christian Kiely persuades judge to deny motion to dismiss 'Varsity Blues' defamation case
- Firm obtains MA Appeals Court win affirming dismissal of \$20M real estate contract claim
- Firm obtains settlement of Dershowitz defamation case, including accuser's statement of potential mistaken identity
- Firm persuades SJC to revive \$40M regulatory taking claim involving Encore casino
- Firm obtains dismissal of \$1B lawsuit related to failed Massachusetts casino application
- Judge rejects commercial tenant's \$7M contractual interference claim
- Firm obtains \$775K settlement in wrongful death med-mal case involving delayed diagnosis
- Judge rejects car salesman's request for class action arbitration