

JOHN J. WILLIAMS

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

John J. Williams is an Associate General Counsel at FirstGroup America, Inc. where he internally works with the various business units of FirstGroup America including but not limited to First Student and First Transit offering them advise and developing strategies with them to work through or avoid legal conflict. He also helps to manage outside counsel as well as engage with them to resolve various issues for FirstGroup/First Student, Inc. John also serves as the Chair of the FirstGroup/First Student's Diversity & Inclusion Council.

PRACTICE AREAS:

Civil Litigation Practice: Conduct all phases of litigation as lead counsel in state and federal courts from discovery through bench and/or jury trial. Draft and argue various motions including summary judgment, discovery motions and motions to compel, and answer same. Take and defend depositions, draft legal memoranda, opinion letters, briefs, and settlement agreements. Provide, obtain and exchange information and advice with consultants and experts, including doctors and engineers.

Employment Litigation: Represents and counsel management in the defense of various Title VII discrimination matters, harassment claims, FMLA violations and various other breaches of employment contracts. Drafted numerous EEOC responses. Defend management in arbitrations and federal and state trials.

Tort Defense/Personal Injury: Represent insurance companies and self-insured entities in the defense and settlement of bodily injury and property damage lawsuits. Determine liability and severity of injuries and property damage. Conduct all phases of litigation including jury trials. Provide, obtain and/or exchange information or advice with external consultants and customers.

Transactional: Provided outside counsel and assistance to a publicly traded company regarding responding to RFPs and contract review and interpretation also drafted and reviewed commercial contracts for various entities. Drafted and negotiated loan documents, including review of public finance documents as Issuer or Authority Counsel.

Small Businesses: Advise and counsel small businesses.

Criminal Litigation: Former City of Lincoln Heights Prosecutor and Village of Golf Manor Magistrate. Extensive criminal bench and jury trial experience representing City of Cincinnati.

EMPLOYMENT HIGHLIGHTS:

John J. Williams, Inc. LPA

Of Counsel, Minnillo & Jenkins, LPA

Partner, Gonzalez, Saggio & Harlan

Special Counsel, Ohio Attorney General Office

Co-General Counsel, Port Authority of Greater Cincinnati

Assistant City Solicitor, Civil Division Office of the Solicitor for the City of Cincinnati

Assistant City Prosecutor, Criminal Division Office of the Solicitor of Cincinnati

EDUCATION:

SUNY at Purchase

Bachelor of Arts - May 1985

SUNY Buffalo

Juris Doctor May - 1988

BAR ADMISSIONS:

Ohio	U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio
Kentucky	U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio
New York	U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky
	U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
	U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia
	U.S. Court of Federal Claims

BAR MEMBERSHIPS AND PARTICIPATION

Cincinnati Bar Association, President 2017-18
Cincinnati Bar Foundation, President 2000-2002
Black Lawyers Association of Cincinnati, Lifetime Member- President from 1995-1999
Greater Cincinnati Minority Counsel Program, Steering Committee Member, Former Co-Chair
Ohio State Bar Association, Member since 1995, Council of Delegates since 2000
ABA House of Delegate Representing Cincinnati Bar Association

CIVIC MEMBERSHIPS

Board Member Spring Grove Cemetery
Camp Joy Outdoor Educational Center, Former Board Member
Steering Committee Leadership Cincinnati
Leadership Cincinnati Class XXIII
ProKids, Former Board Member and President
ProSeniors, Former Board Member and President
Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame, Former Board Member

AWARDS

Ohio State Bar Foundation Community Service Award for Lawyers Forty and Under
2016 Black Lawyers Association Distinguished Service Award Recipient