

Kara C. Michels

Partner | Intellectual Property

OVERVIEW

Kara is a partner in NGE's Intellectual Property practice group, where she focuses on trademark, trade dress, unfair competition, and Internet law, as well as cybersquatting and domain name disputes. With extensive experience across the spectrum of trademark law, from clearance and prosecution to global policing and enforcement, Kara collaborates with clients in diverse industries such as hospitality (restaurants, hotels, luxury car rentals), entertainment, health and wellness, and technology. She is also adept at efficiently conducting IP due diligence ahead of transactions, ensuring clients are well-positioned for success.

As an experienced litigator, Kara helps clients navigate all stages of litigation, from filing pleadings to dispositive motion practice and appeal. Kara regularly litigates in federal courts across the country and has obtained successful results for clients in proceedings, including before the US Patent and Trademark Office's Trademark Trial and Appeal Board and in countless Uniform Domain-Name Dispute Resolution (UDRP) actions.

Beyond her legal practice, Kara serves as a member of the firm's Women's Network Leadership Team. Kara is an adjunct professor at Loyola University Chicago School of Law where she coaches Loyola's Vienna Vis Moot Team. Kara is passionate about mentorship in the legal profession and serves as a Board Member for Ms. JD, an organization dedicated to the success of aspiring and early-career women lawyers. Kara is also a member of the International Trademark Association and sits on the Association's International Amicus Committee.



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EDUCATION

Loyola University Chicago School of Law (J.D., 2017) *cum laude*

Purdue University (B.A. and B.S., 2013)

ADMISSIONS

Illinois



NEAL
GERBER
EISENBERG

RECOGNITIONS

- *The Best Lawyers in America*, recommended in “Intellectual Property Law” and “Litigation – Intellectual Property” since 2023
- *Illinois Super Lawyers*, “Rising Star” in “Intellectual Property” since 2023

NEWS & INSIGHTS

May 16, 2025 Event

NGE Attends the 2025 INTA Annual Meeting

January 24, 2025 Firm News

Twenty-Two Neal Gerber Eisenberg Attorneys Recognized on 2025 Illinois Super Lawyers List

August 15, 2024 Firm News

60 Neal Gerber Eisenberg Attorneys Included in 2025 *Best Lawyers In America*

May 16, 2024 Event

NGE Attends the 2024 INTA Annual Meeting

January 29, 2024 Firm News

Thirty-One Neal Gerber Eisenberg Attorneys Recognized on 2024 Illinois Super Lawyers List

January 2, 2024 Firm News

Neal Gerber Eisenberg Welcomes Intellectual Property and Real Estate Attorneys to Partnership

August 17, 2023 Firm News

55 Neal Gerber Eisenberg Attorneys Included in 2024 *Best Lawyers In America*

May 22, 2023 Publication

Client Alert: SCOTUS Rules Andy Warhol Foundation’s Commercial License of “Orange Prince” Image Infringed Photographer’s Copyright

October 25, 2022 Publication

Lee Eulgen and Kara Smith Article on Name, Image and Likeness Rules Published on *LawInSport*

August 18, 2022 Firm News

60 Neal Gerber Eisenberg Attorneys Included in 2023 *Best Lawyers*

July 27, 2022 Event

Lifting as you Climb: Empowering for Success

February 10, 2022 Firm News

Kara Smith Joins Ms. JD Board of Directors

December 7, 2021 Event

Kara Smith Moderates Online Trademark Policing Panel at the IPLAC Annual IP Symposium

February 5, 2020 Publication

Client Alert: U.S.-China Trade Deal Promises Better Intellectual Property Protection for U.S. Businesses in China



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July 31, 2019 Publication

Client Alert: New USPTO Rule Requires Foreign Applicants, Registrants, and Parties to TTAB Proceedings to Be Represented by U.S. Counsel

March 21, 2019 Publication

Client Alert: U.S. Supreme Court Mandates Copyright Registration to Litigate Infringement Claims