



CHRISTINA B. BURGESS
Partner
Katten

Christina Burgess works with issuers, underwriters and lenders on asset-backed and mortgage-backed structured finance transactions. With a focus on automobile and equipment loan, lease and dealer-floor-plan receivables-backed term deals and warehouses, Christina advises clients on transaction structures and regulatory developments impacting these transactions.

Christina's clients range from large, established financing companies to newcomers to the sector from across the United States. She understands they value smooth execution and surprise-free transactions and has helped multiple clients with their initial securitizations.

Christina has developed extensive experience in all types of financings transactions for equipment leasing companies and auto finance companies, including term securitizations, warehouse transactions, and whole loan sales. Her mortgage loan experience includes real estate mortgage investment conduit (REMIC) and risk-sharing trust structures collateralized by performing, re-performing, and non-performing loans. She draws on this broad knowledge base to anticipate and resolve key issues that arise in finance transactions.

How are you personally supporting Gender Equality Today for Sustainable Tomorrow?

I owe so much of my career advancement to women mentors that I've had during my career so I try to pay that forward by mentoring the women associates in my firm and including them in meaningful transactions and networking opportunities. In addition to mentoring women in my own firm, I have a personal commitment to investing in women I connect with in the securitization industry. Through mentoring and sponsorship, I like to help other women in this very small world to spot and capitalize on their business development opportunities.

How do you help support WiS initiatives at your organization?

I deeply believe in the WiS mission to support the retention and promotion of women in the securitization industry. I want to see all women excel generally but particularly in this field, which is why I am an active member of WiS as well as Katten's Women's Leadership Forum (WLF). With goals similar to those of WiS, WLF offers beneficial programming such as a business development boot camp and workshops on communicating effectively in addition to mentoring and networking activities that help women at Katten advance in our legal careers.

How can companies invest in their women employees to prepare them for leadership roles?

Professional development opportunities are key to achieving successful careers in law and finance. Mentorship and sponsorship programs are valuable tools that can help elevate women to leadership roles. To help diverse attorneys overcome barriers to career advancement, Katten recently rolled out a sponsorship program called Kattalyst, which aims to retain and advance underrepresented attorneys by providing career development and relationship-building opportunities. Those who participate are paired with experienced senior-level partners who serve as sponsors and help enhance their protégés' leadership and business development skills by facilitating connections with those who can offer even more opportunities for career advancement.



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What advice do you have for other women in securitization?

Good advice for women in our industry mirrors that for women in any industry with one key difference. The securitization industry is a relatively small community of professionals; you tend to cross paths with the same people but in different settings. Because of this, it is particularly important to develop good working relationships both with clients and the people at your firm and with those you sit across from who work elsewhere in the industry. Good relationships aid in the retention of current clients and, often help draw new ones. I would say that relationship-building is probably the most important skill needed—for both men and women-- in business generally.

Where is your favorite vacation spot?

My husband and I just spent Spring Break skiing in Utah with our children, who are 9-, 7- and 5-years old. It has turned into our favorite family vacation because our kids are happy and active the whole day (and without screens) and we get to spend meaningful time with them. We are already planning to go back next year.