



Theresa B. Bowman

Partner



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legal expertise

Theresa Bowman is a civil litigator with over a decade of experience advising multi-national entertainment, gaming, media, technology and engineering companies in disputes in U.S. District Courts across the country, with a focus on intellectual property and cutting-edge Communications Decency Act (CDA) Section 230 issues related to immunity for online platforms from liability for third-party content. Ms. Bowman has successfully helped clients enforce intellectual property rights worldwide and favorably resolved multi-jurisdictional content protection disputes that require coordination with a cross-border team.

Ms. Bowman is also a seasoned appellate advocate with particular expertise briefing and arguing disputes brought under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act (FSIA), which governs all lawsuits involving foreign sovereigns, sovereign-owned entities and sovereign-owned property in U.S. federal and state courts. Ms. Bowman has advised and represented both sovereign and private clients in FSIA-related matters and has won multiple high-profile and precedent-setting victories in this area.

Ms. Bowman has been recognized by *The Best Lawyers in America* as "One to Watch" and by *Attorney Intel* on their list of "Top 50 Attorneys of DC." She has been published in the *National Law Review* as well as the *Global Arbitration Review* (GAR) and has co-authored a chapter in GAR's "Guide to Investment Treaty Protection and Enforcement."

Ms. Bowman has spoken on a wide range of U.S. IP legal issues and litigation strategy at well-known video game legal conferences, including the Video Game Bar Association Summit and the Games Industry Law Unpacked Conference.

She is a past President of the Board of Directors of the George Washington Law School Alumni Association, and has served as co-chair of the Litigation Law Forum of the District of Columbia Women's Bar Association.

practice areas

intellectual property
entertainment & ip
litigation

labor & employment
Diversity, Equity and
Inclusion Advisory
litigation

commercial litigation
international disputes
specialties

Artificial Intelligence (AI)
cross-border practice
video game

admissions

Virginia, 2011

District of Columbia, 2013

U.S. District court

District of Columbia, 2015

education

George Washington
University Law School, J.D.,
2011

Northwestern University
Medill School of Journalism,
B.S., 2008; *cum laude*

languages

Spanish, professional
proficiency

French, working proficiency

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representative matters

- Successfully obtained a \$14 million judgment as well as a permanent injunction on behalf of Activision Blizzard in connection with a high-profile copyright infringement and RICO lawsuit against the makers of cheating software designed for the *Call of Duty* video game.
- Successfully obtained a million-dollar judgment and injunction on behalf of Riot Games in connection with a copyright infringement lawsuit regarding the *League of Legends* video game.
- Successfully obtained multiple judgments and injunctions on behalf of Proxima Beta Pte. Limited against the developers and sellers of cheating software designed for the Player Unknown's Battlegrounds Mobile (PUBGM) video game.
- Obtained favorable resolution on behalf of an international mobile game developer in a dispute with its publisher and distributor involving sequel rights and derivative works for a popular video game.
- Filed friend of the court brief on behalf of the Software and Information Industry Association (SIIA) in *Allen v. Cooper* – a precedent-setting U.S. Supreme Court case involving state sovereign immunity and the Copyright Remedy Clarification Act.
- Won two D.C. Circuit precedent setting, appellate victories for U.S. judgment creditor in FSIA lawsuit seeking to enforce international commercial arbitration awards against the Republic of Argentina. The Court of Appeals has twice adopted Ms. Bowman's statutory analysis on issues of first impression, as well as her proposal for what test should determine the timing of relevant sovereign commercial activity when considering an FSIA enforcement action.
- Won D.C. Circuit appeal reversing District Court's dismissal of U.S. citizen's claims for compensation for the expropriation of her family estate in the former East Germany connected to events in the aftermath of WWII.
- Successfully obtained two judgments, for \$349 million and \$59 million, respectively, against the Islamic Republic of Iran in a FSIA Terrorism Exception lawsuit on behalf of the passengers and crew members of TWA Flight 847, which was hijacked by Hezbollah terrorists in June 1985.

Irish Gaelic, limited working proficiency

other career experience

- Law Clerk, The Honorable Judge Reggie Walton, U.S. District Court (2011-2012)
- Law Clerk, The U.S. Department of Defense Office of the Inspector General (2010)

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honors & awards

- "Washington, D.C. Elite – Intellectual Property," *Legal 500* (2026)
- "Washington, D.C. Elite – International Litigation," *Legal 500* (2025)
- "Ones to Watch," *Best Lawyers in America®* in Litigation - Intellectual Property (2024)
- "Top 50 Attorneys of DC," *Attorney Intel* (2023)

professional, business and civic affiliations

- President, Board of Directors, George Washington University Law School Alumni Association (2017-2019)
- Co-chair, Litigation Law Forum, Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia (2016-2018)
- Past Member, Board of Directors of the Georgetown Business Association (2015-2016)
- Sidwell Friends School Alumni Association

headlines

Theresa Bowman and Greg Olaniran Named to *Legal 500's* 2026 "Washington, D.C. Elite – Intellectual Property" Rankings

Legal 500, February 26, 2026

Theresa Bowman Recognized in *Legal 500's* Inaugural "U.S. Elite Series"

Legal 500, February 26, 2025

Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp Launches Practice Group to Advise Clients on DEI Programs

September 17, 2024

Theresa Bowman Named to Attorney Intel's 2023 "Top 50 Attorneys of DC" list

December 8, 2023

38 MSK Attorneys Named Among *The Best Lawyers in America®* for 2024

August 17, 2023

MSK Promotes Five Lawyers to Partner

Business Wire, December 19, 2022

MSK, Mark Bravin Featured in TWA Judgment Coverage

March 2019

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media mentions

Mark Bravin and Theresa Bowman Highlighted in Law 360 for TIG Insurance Co. Client Win
Law 360, July 31, 2024

Marc Mayer and MSK Team Highlighted in *Law360* for Activision Client Win
Law360, May 28, 2024

publications

The Guide to Investment Treaty Protection and Enforcement - Second Edition
Enforcement and Recovery: Practical Steps
Global Arbitration Review, December 21, 2023

GAR Investment Treaty Arbitration (2022)
Global Arbitration Review - Investment Treaty Arbitration Know-how, March 2023

The Guide to Investment Treaty Protection and Enforcement - Enforcement and Recovery: Practical Steps
Global Arbitration Review, December 2021

GAR Investment Treaty Arbitration (2021)
Global Arbitration Review - Investment Treaty Arbitration Know-how, September 2021

GAR Investment Treaty Arbitration (2020)
Global Arbitration Review - Investment Treaty Arbitration Know-how, August 2020

client alerts

A *De Minimis* Defense Grows in Brooklyn: Display of Street Art in Action Movie Not Infringement
MSK Client Alert, April 21, 2020

Hague Service Convention Out of Reach for Foreign Parties Who Select California Arbitration Forum and Agree to Informal Notice of Suit Methods
MSK Client Alert, April 10, 2020

Freedom of Squeak: The Ninth Circuit Finds First Amendment Protection For Parody Dog Toy
MSK Client Alert, April 3, 2020

YouTube May Be An Enormous Town Square, But It's Still Not Subject to The First Amendment
MSK Client Alert, March 6, 2020



Theresa B. Bowman

events & speaking engagements

IP & Video Games

More Than Just a Game Washington, D.C.

January 8, 2026

Europe's Retreat from Investment Arbitration: Updates and Outlook

Sovereign & States Litigation Summit USA

September 24, 2025

2025 Games Industry Law Summit

September 3, 2025

AI Object, Your Honor

Video Game Bar Association 2025 LA Summit

June 3, 2025

Pushing Boundaries

More Than Just a Game London

May 8, 2025

Games Industry Law Unpacked Warsaw 2023

May 9-11, 2023

2022 VGBA Summit Northwest

October 18, 2022

Conformity and Creativity In Rules Of International Arbitration: Should Arbitral Institutions Be Choosing A Path Of Convergence?, *Women's Bar Association (of Washington, DC)*

July 13, 2017