



# Samuel D. Harrison

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***Senior Counsel and Co-Chair, Higher Education***

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## ***Services and Industries***

- Higher Education
- Title IX
- Education
- Franchising, Licensing and Distribution
- Business Litigation and Strategic Solutions

## ***Education***

- University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School, J.D., *cum laude*, 2013
- Gettysburg College, B.S., *summa cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, 2010

## ***Admissions***

- Pennsylvania

- New York
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Third Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of New York

Samuel D. Harrison is the co-chair of Saxton & Stump's [Higher Education](#) Group and litigates complex commercial matters for clients across the country, with significant experience in higher education, antitrust, and class action litigation.

In the higher education context, colleges and universities regularly rely on Sam in their most critical litigation. On behalf of these clients, he has obtained summary judgment in a \$40 million traumatic brain injury case alleged by a former student against his University, secured the dismissal in federal court of employment-related claims by a former professor, successfully resolved litigation stemming from the Title IX processes, obtained favorable rulings on complex charitable immunity issues, and litigated a multi-action suit regarding the disposition of a charitable trust and relocation of a college campus. He has represented colleges and universities in trial and appellate courts, as well as mediation and administrative forums.

In the competition and class action contexts, Sam has won Sherman Act and competition-related lawsuits on behalf of his clients in federal court and arbitration, as well as defeated class actions at the pleadings, summary judgment and class certification stages. He regularly defends franchisors, distributors, and technology companies in commercial contract, RICO, consumer protection, data protection, and fraud suits (including class actions). He co-authors the Third Circuit Chapter of the American Bar Association's Survey of Federal Class Action Law.

Outside the courtroom, Sam regularly counsels domestic and international businesses on compliance, competition and dealer/distributor issues. This work includes conducting investigations into allegations of anticompetitive conduct, managing distributor termination disputes, developing and implementing pricing/distribution policies, and training employees in competitively sensitive roles.

A summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Gettysburg College, Sam earned his law degree cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School, where he was a finalist in the Edwin R. Keedy Moot Court Competition and an executive of the school's Journal of Business Law. Sam also served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Renée Marie Bumb of the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey.

## ***Representative Experience***

- Won full summary judgment in December 2021 for distributor accused of conspiring with fellow distributors and manufacturers to conduct a group boycott, and successfully defended that decision in an appeal before

the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit in October 2023.

- Obtained complete dual-victory on behalf of a structured settlement purchaser denying class certification and granting summary judgment in a RICO class action, including successfully defending that decision in an appeal before the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.
- Successfully defended the Pennsylvania Department of State and its acting secretary against an attempt to delay special elections in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.
- Obtained dismissal of RICO claims brought against a major financial institution related to the handling of property subject to court-ordered freeze.
- Secured complete dismissal of fraud and consumer protection statute class action asserted against structured settlement purchaser.
- Defeated a lawsuit challenging the urban planning review and approval of a joint healthcare/educational facility planned for New York's Upper East Side, including successfully defending trial court's decision on appeal.
- Obtained a temporary restraining order and subsequent settlement of claims for a celebrity chef and associated culinary brand related to trade dress infringement, including securing a permanent injunction barring the use of intellectual property and a financial payment.

## ***Recognitions***

- Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch, Commercial Litigation 2023-2025
- University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School, *Journal of Business Law*, executive and associate editor

## ***Publications***

- Co-author, Survey of Federal Class Action Law: Third Circuit Chapter, American Bar Association, 2021, 2022 and 2023 editions
- Co-author, "Considering Fraud and Arbitrability While Drafting Arbitration Clauses Can Save Litigation Headaches," ABA Section of Litigation, Practice Points, June 2020, co-author
- *Rooker-Feldman's* Narrow Fraud Exception," ABA Section of Litigation, Practice Points, February 2020, author

## ***Community Involvement***

- Employment Advocacy Project, volunteer (2012-13)
- Garden Justice Legal Initiative, volunteer (2011-12)

## ***Professional Affiliations***

- Sub-committee and Communications Co-Chair, Business Torts Committee, American Bar Association (2020-2024)
- ATIXA

## ***Speaking Engagements***

- "Crisis Response: Pre-Litigation Strategies to Drive Effective Outcomes," Keystone Title IX Summit (January 2026)