

Patty A. Eakes

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Introduction

Patty is an accomplished trial lawyer, having tried scores of cases to verdict in state and federal court. Her practice focuses on complex commercial litigation, employment disputes, and white collar criminal defense. Patty has represented Fortune 500 companies and executives of those companies in matters involving alleged breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty, patent infringement, securities fraud, copyright and trade secret claims, antitrust violations, tax fraud, RICO violations and a wide variety of employment discrimination and wage and hour cases. In addition to her trial practice, Patty conducts internal investigations for private companies and government agencies and has served as the Special Ethics Counsel to the Seattle School District.

Patty's recent clients and matters have included representation of:

- Nonprofit in arbitration involving claims for breach of contract and breach of fiduciary duty by former board member. Obtained favorable verdict after arbitration resulting in significant financial award to client.
- Large Northwest law firm in dispute with former partners relating to separation. Obtained favorable arbitration ruling after trial.
- King County Department of Public Defense in disability discrimination case involving promotion of public defenders. Obtained dismissal of case with prejudice during trial.
- King County Wastewater Division against employment discrimination, retaliation and failure-to-accommodate claims. Jury returned a defense verdict after a four-week trial in state court.
- CEO of real estate syndication firm in national securities class action arising out of the sale of billions of dollars in fractional interests in commercial real estate.
- Washington Interscholastic Activities Association in defamation lawsuits brought by two coaches in the wake of inquiries into improper recruiting and other rules violations by a nationally-ranked high school football program.
- Microsoft against patent infringement claims in the federal district court. Case was resolved on favorable terms shortly before trial.
- Seattle-area employer against claims of negligence and hostile work environment arising out of the alleged stalking of an employee by the employer's former client. Obtained the complete dismissal of the plaintiff's claims on summary judgment.
- President of native-owned, Canadian cigarette distribution company on tax evasion, obstruction of justice and perjury charges. After a jury trial, the government dismissed all charges.

- Internationally renowned celebrity David Copperfield in grand jury investigation into allegations of kidnapping and fraud, and in a related civil personal injury lawsuit. After a three-year investigation, government declined to prosecute based on defense investigation. Plaintiff later dismissed the civil lawsuit without settlement of any kind.
- Local Seattle engineering company against claims of misappropriation of trade secrets and business interference claims.
- International construction company in federal court against a high-level manager's claim that he was misclassified as an exempt employee and entitled to receive overtime pay. Case was dismissed on summary judgment.
- Large construction company in a federal investigation alleging fraudulent billing practices.

Patty is a founding member of Calfo Eakes. Prior to forming the firm, she was a King County Senior Deputy Prosecutor in both the Criminal and Civil Divisions from 1990 until 2006. As a prosecutor, Patty directed the investigation and prosecution of numerous high-profile homicide cases and other violent crimes. She prosecuted Gary Ridgway, the most prolific serial killer in the United States, for more than 50 murders referred to as the Green River murders. In the Civil Division, Patty advised county agencies on a wide variety of employment-related issues including requests for accommodation, discipline and termination. She also defended King County in both state and federal court in employment lawsuits.

Patty is ranked with Chambers & Partners USA and by Washington Law & Politics Magazine as a Top 50 female lawyer. She was named one of Benchmark Litigation's "Top 250 Women in Litigation" in 2018 and Benchmark also identified her as a "Litigation Star." Patty has previously served on the boards of the Seattle Police Foundation and DAWN, a domestic violence organization.