Abigail P. Hemnes

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Abigail Hemnes, partner, is a leading investment management lawyer with a practice focused on advising registered funds, including mutual funds and exchange-traded funds, and their boards of directors, on all aspects of regulation, registration, and compliance. She brings deep experience and nuanced judgment to a wide range of matters, including new product development, disclosure and proxy issues, internal and external reorganizations (including complex asset acquisitions), and board governance.

Abigail is highly regarded for her work representing investment companies before the US Securities and Exchange Commission, where she regularly advises on registration matters, proxy materials, and other regulatory filings. She has extensive experience working across the full spectrum of registered fund structures, including fund-of-funds, manager-of-managers platforms, and target date funds designed for retirement-focused investors.

Abigail is recognized for her experience in retail fund investments in alternative asset classes, including investments in private markets, where she helps clients navigate complex investment vehicles involving hedge funds, private equity, and other alternative strategies. She also has significant experience advising on proxy solicitations, offering strategic, practical guidance.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

During law school, Abigail served as a legal intern to the Honorable Nancy Gertner and interned in the general counsel's office of a Massachusetts-based pharmaceutical company. Prior to joining K&L Gates, Abigail worked in Mauritius as a law clerk in a management company providing corporate services to offshore and international companies. Abigail was a summer associate at K&L Gates in 2008.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Certified Legal Project Manager (LawVision)
- In 2019, Abigail Hemnes was awarded “Rising Star” at the 26th Mutual Funds Industry Awards sponsored by *Fund Industry Intelligence and Fund Director Intelligence*. The “Rising Stars” were selected based on their

accomplishments and contributions to the mutual fund industry in the areas of client service and product innovation that makes them stand out among their peers and position them as future leaders.

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Member, Subcommittee on Investment Companies and Investment Advisers, Committee on Federal Regulation of Securities, Business Law Section, American Bar Association

EDUCATION

- J.D., Northeastern University School of Law, 2009
- B.A., Simmons College, 2006 *(summa cum laude)*

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of Massachusetts

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- February 18, 2026, US Asset Management Regulatory Year in Review 2025
- November 2025, 2025 Asset Management and Investment Funds Fall Conference—Boston
- 30 September 2025, Is the Industry Ready for an ETF Share Class?
- 18 March 2025, SEC Extends Compliance Period for the Amended Names Rule
- 26 February 2025, EDGAR Next: The Next Era in Filing
- 14 January 2025, SEC Updates Names Rule FAQs
- 23 January 2024, SEC Staff Publishes FAQs on Tailored Shareholder Reports
- 9 November 2023, Asset Management and Investment Funds Fall Conferences - Boston
- 4 October 2023, Practical Implications of the Names Rule Webinar
- 26 September 2023, What's in a Fund Name? SEC Approves Changes to the Fund Names Rule
- 21 September 2023, Amendments to the Names Rule
- November 2022, Disclosure Modernization Initiative Webinar Series: Overview
- 27 October 2022, SEC Finalizes Major Changes to Shareholder Report Disclosure Scheme and Investment Company Advertisement Rules
- 26 October 2022, Tailored Shareholder Reports and Revised Advertisement Fee Disclosure for Registered Investment Companies

- 9 March 2022, SEC Proposes Cybersecurity Risk Management Rules for Investment Advisers and Funds
- 29 October 2020, Unraveling the SEC's Fund of Funds Rule
- 26 October 2020, SEC Adopts New Rule 12d1-4 Overhauling Fund of Funds Arrangements--Are You Ready?
- September 2020, Understanding the SEC's Proposed Modernized Fund Shareholder Reports and Disclosures
- 19 August 2020, SEC Proposes Major Changes to Prospectus and Shareholder Report Disclosure Scheme
- 6 May 2020, COVID-19: Massachusetts Joins the Five Other New England States in Temporarily Permitting Remote Notarization
- 10 April 2020, COVID-19: New England States Embrace Remote Notarization as Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont Temporarily Eliminate "In-Person" Requirements
- 8 January 2019, SEC Proposes a New Rule for Fund of Funds Arrangements
- 15 August 2018, Saving Trees: SEC Allows Notice & Access Delivery of Shareholder Reports
- 11 June 2018, Click-Here for Your Fund Report: SEC Endorses Web-Delivery and Asks for Comments

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- "Every Fund Has One—The Amended Names Rule and Its Impact," *The Investment Lawyer*, February 2024
- "Tailored Shareholder Reports," *The Investment Lawyer*, January 2023
- "What To Know About SEC Shareholder Disclosure Reforms," *Law360,* 28 October 2022
- "Considerations When Drafting an ESG 80% Policy," *IAA Today (Investment Adviser Association)*, 14 February 2022

NEWS & EVENTS

- 3 November 2022, 2022 K&L Gates Asset Management and Investment Funds Conference — Boston
- 28 October - 19 November 2020, Unraveling the SEC's Fund of Funds Rule Series
- 21 February 2019, K&L Gates Names 24 New Partners Across Four Continents

MEDIA MENTIONS

- 27 February 2026, *Fund Directions* | Fund boards weigh cost, clarity hurdles in SEC benchmark rule

OTHER MEDIA MENTIONS

- Quoted, "SEC's Updated 'Names Rule' to Leave Funds Pondering: Change My Name or Change My Policy?" *FundFire*, 21 September 2023
- Quoted, "Final Names Rule Eases Proposal's Compliance Burdens," *Ignites*, 21 September
- Quoted, "SEC Cracks Down on Misleading Fund Names," *Advisor Hub*, 20 September 2023
- Quoted, "Funds' Portfolios Must Reflect Their Name, SEC Says," *Plan Adviser*, 20 September 2023
- Quoted, "SEC expands rule to ensure fund portfolios match their names," *Investment News*, 20 September 2023
- Mentioned, "Fund industry braced for SEC crackdown on deceptive product labels," *Financial Times*, 19 September 2023
- Mentioned, "Highlights of This Issue," *The Investment Lawyer*, 1 January 2023
- Mentioned, "Experts mourn loss of digital option, cost of shareholder report rule," *Fund Directions*, 8 December 2022
- Quoted, "New SEC Rule Revamps Fund Docs, E-Delivery," *Ignites*, 27 October 2022
- Quoted, "SEC Tightens Mutual Fund Reports, Seeks New Adviser Rules," *Law360*, 26 October 2022

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Asset Management and Investment Funds
- Investment Funds
- Portfolio Management, Trading, and Compliance
- US Registered Investment Companies

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Reviewing organizational structures in light of SEC proposed and adopted rules
- Representing clients in fund adoptions and fund reorganizations
- Negotiating the resolution of SEC Staff comments regarding registration statements relating to fund launches, adoptions and reorganizations
- Counseling clients in the establishment, registration, and operation of retail and institutional fund products
- Serving as counsel to registered funds and their boards

- Organizing and registering investment companies using various fund structures, such as master-feeder and multiple class