



Christina Laun Fugate

Partner

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Christina Fugate is a partner in the Litigation group focused on the needs of franchisees as well as general litigation on a national basis. She has been recognized as one of the *Best Lawyers® in America* for litigation and a “Legal Eagle” by the leading franchise industry publication, *Franchise Times*.

Christina chairs Ice Miller’s Franchise & Distribution team. She helps clients determine whether franchising is the right business model to grow their brand. Christina helps franchisors prepare their franchise disclosure documents, comply with state and federal franchise and business opportunity laws, and navigate the franchisor-franchisee relationship. On the franchisee side, she helps clients navigate through their decision to invest in a franchise system.

Christina also serves as national litigation counsel to several clients, across multiple industries. She regularly defends Fortune 500 manufacturers, distributors, and retailers across the country against general commercial litigation, product liability, mass tort exposure, and general contract claims. Furthermore, Christina works closely with the firm’s real estate group to resolve various real estate disputes, such as those involving purchase agreements, landlord-tenant (eviction) issues, foreclosures, and quiet title actions. She also serves as general outside counsel to many clients.

In addition to her law practice, Christina is a member of the Board of Directors of Road America, Inc., one of the world’s finest motorsports road courses located in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin.

In the Indianapolis community, Christina serves as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Children’s Museum of Indianapolis, chairs the Dean’s Advisory Council for Butler University’s Lacy School of Business, and serves on the Board of Directors for All Good Dawgs, Inc. (Butler University’s NIL Collective), and Project 44, Inc. As a former collegiate tennis player at Butler University, she also serves as a volunteer for the United States Tennis Association.

Education

- Butler University (B.S., 2004)
 - Finance

Services & Industries

- Asbestos Litigation
- Commercial Litigation
- Distressed Investments
- Distressed Real Estate Litigation & Restructuring
- Franchise & Distribution
- Life Sciences & Biotechnology
- Litigation
- Products Liability
- Real Estate Litigation
- Risk & Crisis Management
- Securities Litigation & Regulation

- Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law (J.D., 2007)

Admissions

- Indiana
- United States District Court - Northern District of Indiana
- United States District Court - Southern District of Indiana

Professional Affiliations

- Member, American Bar Association
- Member, American Bar Association, Forum on Franchising
- Member, Indianapolis Bar Association
- Member, Young Lawyers' Division, Indianapolis Bar Association
- Member, INDY Crew
- Member, International
- Certified Franchise Executive

Awards & Honors

- *Best Lawyers® in America*, 2022-2026
- *IBJ Women of Influence*, 2025
- *Indianapolis Business Journal* 40 Under 40, 2020
- *Franchise Times* Legal Eagle, 2020-2025
- Junior Achievement of Central Indiana Indy's Best and Brightest in Law Award, 2016
- Recipient of the Joseph Irwin Sweeney Alumni Service Award, Butler University, 2014
- Indiana *Super Lawyers* Rising Stars, 2012-2021
- Indiana *Super Lawyers*, 2024-2026

Community Involvement

- President, Butler University Central Indiana Alumni Chapter
- Dean's Advisory Council, Butler University Lacy School of Business
- Co-Founder, Women's Network Forum
- Board Member, IndyCREW
- President, Heritage Place of Indianapolis, Inc.
- Secretary, Project 44, Inc.
- USTA Midwest Junior Competition Committee Member
- Past President, Butler University Young Alumni Board of Directors
- Past President, Hamilton County Community Tennis Association

Key Matters

Reported and Representative Cases

- *Kras v. Conifer Ins. Co.*, No. 2:16-CV-224-JEM, 2018 WL 4793121 (N.D. Ind. Oct. 3, 2018)
- *O'Day v. Ally Fin. Inc.*, No. 3:17-CV-952-JD, 2018 WL 3055330 (N.D. Ind. June 20, 2018)
- *Smith v. Walsh Constr. Co. II, LLC*, 95 N.E.3d 78 (Ind. Ct. App. 2018)
- *Bancorpsouth, Inc., v. Fed. Ins. Co.*, 873 F.3d 582 (7th Cir. 2017)
- *Armstrong v. Deere & Company*, 2017 WL 4168485 (S.D. Ind. Sept. 20, 2017)
- *Kras v. Conifer Insurance Company*, 2016 WL 6893687, (N.D. Ind. Nov. 23, 2016)
- *Pearman v. Jackson*, 25 N.E.3d 772 (Ind. Ct. App. 2015)
- *Chupp v. Wyndham Vacation Ownership, Inc.*, 990 N.E.2d 993 (Ind. Ct. App. 2013)
- *USIC Locating Servs. v. One Call Locators, Ltd.*, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 29031 (S.D. Ind. Mar. 1, 2013)
- *Throgmartin v. Gregg Appliances, Inc.*, 969 N.E.2d 633 (Ind. Ct. App. 2012)
- *Sonnenberg v. A.N. Real Estate Servs.*, 944 N.E.2d 993 (Ind. Ct. App. 2011)

Success Stories

CLAAS

CLAAS is an agricultural machinery manufacturer founded in 1913 and based in Harsewinkel, Germany. CLAAS offers a wide variety of technologically innovative combines, hay tool, baler and self-propelled forage harvester products to provide farmers optimum performance in the field. The harvesting equipment is designed at three different worldwide factories. The design, performance, and reliability of these products have made CLAAS a global market leader for nearly a century.

With the knowledge and innovative thinking of over 9,000 employees worldwide, CLAAS is committed to establishing its technology as the standard for the agricultural equipment market. In fact, in 2011 and for the eighth consecutive year, the company's North American business unit, CLAAS of America, was one of just 50 companies recognized by the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) for ground breaking innovation in agriculture, food and biological systems.

This focus on innovation is key to the efforts of CLAAS to meet the increased global demand for agricultural machinery as both population and food demand grows. It is also critical in weathering the lows of the ag equipment market caused by economic downturns, and weak commodity prices and farm income.

CLAAS has a significant presence in the United States and across North America. CLAAS operates one of the industry's most modern combine production facilities in Omaha, Nebraska. The facility, which manufactures LEXION combines, was completed in 2001 in partnership with Caterpillar, Inc. In 2002, CLAAS became the sole owner of the plant and started operating as CLAAS Omaha LLC.

Claas of America was originally located in Columbus, Indiana. In December 2003, the headquarters for CLAAS of America relocated to Omaha. Since that time, the Omaha facility has expanded to house Claas Omaha, Inc. and Brötje Aerospace. The main parts facility for CLAAS in North America remains in Columbus and houses parts for all CLAAS products sold in North America.

Ice Miller has worked closely with CLAAS of America, Claas Omaha Inc., and their parent company, Claas KGaA for over two

decades, helping them on a wide variety of legal matters throughout North America including advice on distributor agreements, product liability and warranty claims, labor issues, and general risk management.

Published In

- "Franchise USA 2020," *Lexology Getting The Deal Through (LexGTD)*
- "Returning to Work - What Liability Do Businesses Have?" *Inside Indiana Business*, May 15, 2020 and *Chicago Daily Herald Business Ledger*, May 19, 2020
- Co-Author, *Franchise Deskbook Selected State Laws, Commentary and Annotations, Third Edition*, Indiana Chapter, 2019
- "Trademark Exemptions to Business Opportunity Laws: A Puff of Smoke in the Marijuana Industry," *ABA Franchise Law Journal*, 38, 2, Fall 2018
- "Protecting Your Franchise Agreement: Understanding Exceptions to the Parol Evidence Rule," *ABA Franchise Law Journal*, 37, 4, Spring 2018
- "Trump National Labor Relations Board Rolls Back Obama-Era Rules," *Indiana Manufacturers Association Human Resources Memo*, February 2018
- "Trump National Labor Relations Board Rolls Back Obama-Era Rules," *Inside Indiana Business*, Feb. 5, 2018
- "Avoiding Accidental Franchise Pitfalls," *Inside Indiana Business*, Aug. 9, 2017
- "Franchisors: Don't delay in discovering agreement violations!," *Daily Herald Business Ledger*, March 20, 2017
- Co-Author (with Art Kaufman, Peter Silverman), "Stop the Bleeding: Affirmative Injunctive Relief and Other Non-Traditional Remedies," Winter 2015
- Co-Author, "Specific Performance: A Maverick Remedy Post *E-Bay* and *Winter*," *ABA Franchise Law Journal*, 34, 2, Fall 2014
- Co-Author, "2012 Indiana Section," *Covenants Against Competition in Franchise Agreements*, 3rd Ed.: Indiana, 2012 A.B.A. FORUM ON FRANCHISING, 2012
- Co-Author, "2011 Supplement in Indiana Section," *FRANCHISE DESK BOOK SECOND EDITION* (W. Michael Garner ed., 2012
- Co-Author, "Survey of Daubert Challenges in the Context of Franchise Liability Experts" *ABA Forum on Franchising*, 17, 23, Summer 2010
- Assisted With the Article, "Survey of Recent Developments in Indiana Product Liability Law," *Indiana L. Rev.*, 2009
- Assisted With, "Attorney's Guide to Commercial Evictions," *National Business Institute*, 2009

Thought Leadership

June 23, 2026

Distressed Investments Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 36

April 23, 2026

Distressed Investments Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 35

March 6, 2026

Distressed Investments Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 34

January 27, 2026

Distressed Investments Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 33

August 29, 2024

Distressed Investments Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 25

July 18, 2024

Distressed Investments Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 24

May 10, 2024

Distressed Investments Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 23

March 4, 2024

Distressed Investments Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 22

November 14, 2023

Distressed Investments Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 21

September 6, 2023

Distressed Investments Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 20

July 21, 2023

Distressed Investments Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 19

June 7, 2023

Distressed Investments Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 18

April 27, 2023

Distressed Investments Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 17

February 27, 2023

Distressed Investments Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 16

November 18, 2022

Distressed Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 15

November 9, 2022

Franchise USA 2022 | USA - Indiana Chapter

Lexology Getting The Deal Through

September 21, 2022

NASAA Releases Statement of Policy Regarding the Use of Franchise Questionnaires and Acknowledgments

September 13, 2022

Distressed Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 14

August 4, 2022

Distressed Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 13

May 18, 2022

Distressed Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 12

March 21, 2022

Distressed Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 11

February 8, 2022

Distressed Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 10

December 2, 2021

Distressed Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 9

November 24, 2021

Franchise USA 2021 | USA - Indiana Chapter

Lexology Getting The Deal Through

October 29, 2021

Distressed Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 8

September 20, 2021

Distressed Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 7

August 9, 2021

CDC Issues New Eviction Moratorium

July 14, 2021

Distressed Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 6

June 10, 2021

Distressed Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 5

May 6, 2021

Distressed Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 4

April 27, 2021

CFPB Issues Interim Final Rule Targeting Eviction-Related Debt Collectors

March 16, 2021

President Biden Signs New COVID Relief into Law

March 10, 2021

Distressed Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 3

February 18, 2021

Holcomb Signs COVID-19 Civil Liability Immunity into Law

February 2, 2021

Indiana Senate Passes COVID-19 Civil Liability Immunity Bill

January 12, 2021

Indiana Senate Considers COVID-19 Civil Liability Immunity

December 29, 2020

Employee or Independent Contractor? Implications for the “ABC Test” and Federal Franchise Law

December 11, 2020

Distressed Opportunity Bulletin - Issue 2

October 6, 2020

COVID-19 Litigation Update: Contractual Defenses

September 23, 2020

U.S. DOL's "Joint Employer" Rule Struck Down, Now What?

September 15, 2020

States Provide Shields against COVID-19 Suits

September 9, 2020

U.S. DOL Clarifies Rules for Reimbursing Delivery Driver Mileage Expenses

September 2, 2020

CDC Temporarily Halts Residential Evictions Nationwide in Effort to Stop Further Spread of COVID-19

August 10, 2020

Who Are "Covered Persons" Under the PREP Act – Q&A

August 6, 2020

The Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act) (codified at 42 U.S.C. § 247d-6d)

June 23, 2020

Landlords Beware: Pandemic Alters Post-Petition Rent in Bankruptcy

June 19, 2020

Guidance Issued on COVID-19's Impact on Financial Performance Representations (FDD Item 19)

May 20, 2020

UPDATED: Returning to Work - What Liability Do Businesses Have?

Inside Indiana Business - May 15, 2020; Chicago Daily Herald Business Ledger - May 19, 2020

May 19, 2020

Return to Work Guidance for Commercial Landlords

May 15, 2020

Franchises in Indiana Must Now Amend Their FDDs Upon a "Material Change" – Will Your COVID-19 Changes Trigger a Duty to Amend?

April 17, 2020

COVID-19 and Virtual Meeting Best Practices

March 30, 2020

The U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Issues Updated Guidance on Critical Infrastructure Workers

March 27, 2020

UPDATED: COVID-19 Litigation Trends

March 26, 2020

Immunity Declared For Entities Fighting COVID-19

March 20, 2020

Price Gouging – A Symptom of COVID-19?

March 20, 2020

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Excusing Contract Performance

March 20, 2020

UPDATED: The Impact of COVID-19 on Landlord-Resident Relationships

March 16, 2020

UPDATED: OSHA Recording Requirements for Work-Related COVID-19 Cases

March 12, 2020

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) - A Force Majeure Event?

Speaking Engagements

- [Moderator, December 2021, Rise with Ice Miller & Friends Webcast \(Episode Seven\)](#)
- [Moderator, August 2021, Rise with Ice Miller & Friends Webcast \(Episode Six\)](#)
- [Moderator, May 2021, Rise with Ice Miller & Friends Webcast \(Episode Five\)](#)
- [Moderator, March 2021, Rise with Ice Miller & Friends Webcast \(Episode Four\)](#)
- [Moderator, January 2021, Rise with Ice Miller & Friends Webcast \(Episode Three\)](#)
- [Moderator, December 2020, Rise with Ice Miller & Friends Webcast \(Episode Two\)](#)
- Presenter, December 2020, myLawCLE Webinar, COVID-19 Litigation Update: Contractual Defenses
- [Moderator, October 2020, Rise with Ice Miller & Friends Webcast \(Episode One\)](#)
- [Panelist, June 2020, Ice Miller Webinar, Balancing Business Risks and Liabilities During a Pandemic](#)
- [Panelist, May 2020, Lex Machina, COVID-19 Impact Analyzer App Unveiling](#)
- Panelist, April 2020, Lex Machina, Analyzing the Impact of COVID-19 on Litigation
- Panelist, April 2020 FranNet Virtual Employee to Entrepreneur Webinar
- Panelist, April 2020 INFA Webinar Impact of COVID-19 on Franchising
- Panelist, April 2020 Indiana Manufacturer's Association Webinar Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update for Business Owners
- Panelist, April 2020 Indy Chamber Webinar COVID-19: Excusing Contract Performance
- Panelist, April 2020 YPO Webinar Update for Business Owners
- Panelist, 2019 MJ Housing Forum, "Current Legal and Risk Management Issues"
- Speaker at the 2019 TEDxYouth Event, Westfield High School
- Participant, 2018 The Verdict at the Children's Museum of Indianapolis, Captain Kidd: Pirate or Privateer
- Panelist, 2018 Indianapolis Women's Leadership Conference, "Negotiate Like a Lawyer Even if You Are Not One"
- Panelist, 2018 Butler University "Young Alumni Career Development Panel"
- Speaker at the Indiana Licensed Beverage Association Fall Education Conference and Annual Meeting, discussing issues concerning general negligence, premises liability and liquor liability, October 22, 2017
- "Hot Collection Issues in the Business World" webinar hosted by Ice Miller on October 19, 2016
- Panelist, 2015 ABA Forum on Franchising, New Orleans, LA, "Stop the Bleeding: Affirmative Injunctive Relief and Other Non-Traditional Remedies"
- Past lecturer, IndyBar Review, Negotiable Instruments