



Lydia F. Reback

Associate

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Lydia F. Reback is an associate in Ice Miller's Litigation group, with a focus on trial practice and advocating before state administrative bodies. Her strategic thinking, persuasive writing, and exceptional oral advocacy skills are an asset at every stage of litigation—from crafting pleadings and managing discovery to securing critical testimony through depositions and trial.

While she serves clients across many industries, Lydia has unique experience representing highly regulated businesses. This includes representing cannabis companies, where the ever-evolving patchwork of state and federal laws demands creative and careful thinking to advise and advocate for clients. Lydia regularly appears before state agencies in adjudication hearings, including second-chair experience before the Ohio Board of Pharmacy, the Ohio Division of Cannabis Control, and the Ohio Department of Commerce.

In addition to her regulatory practice, Lydia regularly handles commercial litigation matters in state and federal courts. She is frequently called upon to handle cases involving complex issues and sensitive subject matter. She has obtained injunctive relief in state court on multiple occasions, including preventing the disclosure of clients' trade secret information and protecting critical public utility assets. Lydia has also successfully defended against such motions in state and federal court, enabling clients to continue building their businesses without undue restraints.

Lydia's recent experience has included the following results:

- Served as second chair in a federal jury trial involving breach of contract, employment, and securities law issues that settled after four days of trial. Lydia delivered the opening statement and helped lead all aspects of the case through trial preparation, including taking and defending lay and expert witness depositions, researching and drafting dispositive motions, and preparing our client's damages expert for trial testimony.
- Was a member of a successful trial team that obtained a complete defense verdict on behalf of a public university after a six day bench trial in the Ohio Court of Claims. During the trial, Lydia cross-examined one of the key witnesses through a

Services & Industries

- Cannabis
- Commercial Litigation
- Employment Litigation & Disputes
- Government Contracts & Grants
- Litigation
- Wage & Hour/Fair Labor Standards Act

foreign-language interpreter, argued the motion for directed verdict, and conducted direct examinations of both an expert witness and the client's designated representative.

- Successfully briefed and argued a dispositive motion in federal court presenting a question of first impression involving the application of the federal Controlled Substances Act to the sale of a state legal cannabis cultivation property.
- Successfully briefed and argued a motion to dismiss crossclaims filed against a state agency client. Obtaining a dismissal that preserved the agency's sovereign immunity against suit for indemnification and contribution.
- Served as second chair in a seven-day arbitration in a complex business dispute. Lydia examined multiple witnesses on direct and cross and played a key role in shaping the case strategy, ultimately delivering a favorable outcome for the client and a seven-figure damages award.

Lydia earned her juris doctor, *cum laude*, from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, where she served as the Note Editor for the *Ohio State Law Journal* and was recognized as a member of the National Order of Barristers. She distinguished herself in moot court, earning multiple national awards including Third Place Speaker and Second Place Team at the National Moot Court Championship. She received her B.A., *cum laude*, from Smith College.

Prior to law school, Lydia worked in communications consulting, representing political campaign clients and nonprofit organizations.

In addition to her legal practice, Lydia is actively involved in the Columbus community as a board member for Sanctuary Night and through her participation in Pelotonia, the annual fundraiser for The Ohio State University CCC – James Cancer Hospital. She also serves as an admissions interviewer for both Smith College and Phillips Exeter Academy. Lydia is proficient in Spanish and played eight years of rugby at the collegiate and post-collegiate levels.

Education

- Smith College (B.A., *cum laude*, 2012)
 - Government
- The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law (J.D., *cum laude*, 2018)

Admissions

- United States District Court - Northern District of Illinois
- Ohio
- United States District Court - Northern District of Ohio
- United States District Court - Southern District of Ohio

Awards & Honors

- Ohio *Super Lawyers Rising Stars*®, 2026
- National Order of Barristers
- Moritz College of Law George R. Beneman Award

Community Involvement

- Board Member, Sanctuary Night
- Smith College Alumnae Admissions Coordinator for Columbus, OH
- Phillips Exeter Academy Alumni Admissions Interviewer
- Pelotonia Rider

Languages

- Spanish

Thought Leadership

Summer 2024

***Columbus Bar Lawyers Quarterly* | An Overview of Adult-Use Cannabis Legalization in Ohio**

September 26, 2022

Alabama Releases Timeline for Medical Cannabis Applications

September 23, 2021

Two Sunny States, Hawaii and California, Shine Light on Regulating Hemp-Derived CBD Products