



Nicola Deans

Associate

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Nicola Deans is an associate in the firm's Business Group.

Nicola joined Ice Miller as a summer associate in 2019.

Nicola gained valuable experience as a legal intern for Cisco Systems where she assisted the employment law team with factual analysis and drafted legal memoranda and responses to demand letters. Nicola also was a legal extern for USA Track & Field. She drafted agreements in support of USATF events and monitored trademark usage to assist with USATF brand protection.

During law school, Nicola was actively involved with the Women's Law Caucus, the Black Law Students Association, the Sports and Entertainment Law Society and the Protective Order Project. She participated in the summer 2018 boot camp of the Institute for the Future of Law Practice, Moot Court and the Independent Film Production Legal Clinic. In addition, Nicola served as managing editor for the *Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies*.

As an undergraduate student, Nicola was a member of the Michigan State University Varsity Gymnastics Team. She was an Academic All-Big Ten and All-American Award Winner, Big Ten Distinguished Scholar Award Winner, Michigan State Scholar-Athlete Award Winner and the 2017 Big Ten Floor Exercise Champion.

Education

- Michigan State University (B.A., 2017)
 - Humanities Pre-Law
- Indiana University Maurer School of Law (J.D., 2020)

Admissions

- Illinois

Awards & Honors

- Illinois *Super Lawyers Rising Stars*®, 2026

Services & Industries

- Business

- The National Black Lawyers Top 40 Under 40, 2025

Success Stories

Ice Miller Represents Nexgen Packaging in Acquisition by Trimco Group, a Portfolio Company of Brookfield

Ice Miller represented client Nexgen Packaging in a stock sale to Trimco Group, a portfolio company of Brookfield Private Equity and a leading global supplier of brand identity products for international fashion and sports brands. Nexgen Packaging is a global provider of packaging solutions and recognized brand identification products to a myriad of apparel and footwear manufacturers and retail partners across the globe. Nexgen partners with leading brands and retailers to deliver customized eco-friendly solutions that enhance supply chain efficiency and elevate brand identity through unique offerings such as RFID and plastic-free products. Nexgen has global sales and manufacturing operations, with headquarters in Hong Kong, Chicago, and Madrid.

The acquisition will allow both companies to merge their sales and production networks and continue to expand their international reach in 27 countries covering Asia, North and Central America, Europe, and Africa.

The Ice Miller deal team was led by partners [Lacee Wentworth](#) and [Steven Thayer](#), who have a long-standing relationship with Nexgen, including aiding the company during its formation. Thayer and Wentworth have been key players in addressing Nexgen's day-to-day general corporate and outside general counsel needs over the years and have aided with some of the company's other acquisitions along the way.

[Nicola Deans](#) and [Patricia Gladstone](#) assisted heavily with the transaction, with support from several other lawyers from the firm's [Business](#), [Intellectual Property](#), [Tax](#), [Private Equity](#), and [Workplace Solutions](#) practice groups.

Thayer and Wentworth work with entrepreneurs, start-ups, high-net-worth families, family offices and established businesses on a variety of complex business transactions, including mergers and acquisitions, securities compliance, corporate governance, and other financing transactions. They are also heavily involved in the formation, financing, and operation of business enterprises in a variety of industries, both domestically and internationally.