

Jessica D. Burt

Partner

Washington, DC

202.419.8409

jburt@stradley.com



Jessica D. Burt represents clients in the asset management industry, including registered investment companies, independent directors, and investment advisers. She frequently counsels on the applicability and interpretation of federal securities laws. Jessica is a member of Stradley Ronon's environmental, social & governance practice group and advises asset managers and fund boards on ESG-related regulatory implications, such as disclosure requirements, and on fund incorporation of ESG considerations into investment strategy and decisions. Her experience includes representing:

- **Registered Investment Companies:** Jessica advises clients on the federal securities laws pertaining to the formation, registration, and ongoing compliance of open-end mutual funds, including multi-manager funds and sub-advised funds. She drafts and reviews critical documents, such as registration statements, proxy solicitation materials, information statements, shareholder reports, and compliance policies and procedures. She assists in responding to SEC inquiries and drafts no-action requests and exemptive applications. Jessica also prepares plans of reorganization and registration statements on Form N-14 in connection with fund mergers and acquisitions involving both affiliated and non-affiliated funds.
- **Independent Directors:** Jessica advises boards of directors on issues arising under the Investment Company Act of 1940 and Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as well as various governance issues.
- **Investment Advisers:** Jessica counsels investment advisers with respect to their obligations under the securities laws and drafts and reviews investment adviser registration materials. She also represents investment management clients undertaking corporate mergers or reorganizations.

While in law school, Jessica served as the senior note and comment editor for the *American University Journal of Gender, Social Policy & the Law*. She was a legal research and writing teaching assistant and was recognized with a dean's fellowship for Legal Rhetoric. She also served as a student attorney for the Domestic Violence and Women and the Law clinics. Jessica began her legal career at Stradley Ronon as a summer associate.

FOCUS

Investment Management
Registered Investment Companies
Independent Trustee Counsel
Investment Advisers
Environmental, Social & Governance
Alternative Funds

BAR ADMISSIONS

District of Columbia
New York

EDUCATION

J.D., *cum laude*, American University
Washington College of Law
M.A., George Washington University
Elliott School of International Affairs
B.A., *magna cum laude*, University of
Rochester, Phi Beta Kappa

MEMBERSHIPS

American Bar Association
District of Columbia Bar Association
Federal Bar Association
New York State Bar Association
Stradley Ronon Diversity Committee
Stradley Ronon Pro Bono Committee
Washington Council of Lawyers

LANGUAGES

French
Spanish



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Prior to law school, she was a program associate for the Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs, where she conducted research and wrote grant proposals, securing funding from the U.S. Department of Justice for farmworker public education campaigns.

RESULTS

- represented Nationwide Mutual Funds in the adoption of 17 equity and fixed-income mutual funds from the HighMark Funds
- represented Nationwide Mutual Funds in the adoption of various mutual funds from UBS and Thompson, Siegel & Walmsley
- assisted in the ongoing representation of mutual fund complex in connection with the launch of alternative strategy fund, including drafting and reviewing registration statements, review of sub-adviser materials, response to SEC inquiries, and preparation of necessary shareholder report disclosures
- engaged to advise the board of directors of a bank-owned investment management company complex on matters of corporate governance, fund oversight and compliance with federal securities laws
- handled merger and internal fund reorganization for an investment company client and prepared proxy statement electing trustees and approving new advisory and sub-advisory relationships
- assisted in engagement with a pension consulting firm located in Guam to establish a series of collective trust funds
- engaged to represent a large investment management company complex with the redomestication of its closed-end funds to Delaware statutory trusts, followed by mergers involving the closed-end funds and various open-end funds

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Panelist, “Navigating FinCEN’s AML/CFT Rules: Compliance Strategies for 2026 and Beyond,” CBIZ, M&T Bank and Stradley Ronon CLE
- Speaker, “[Talking ESG](#),” American University Washington College of Law
- Panelist, “ESG Investment and Regulatory Perspectives Webinar,” 100 Women in Finance

IN THE COMMUNITY

Jessica formerly served as the secretary of the Board of Trustees for The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church.

