Cristina A. Carvalho

PARTNER

Cristina is a member of the firm’s Executive Committee and served as Firmwide Managing Partner from 2016-2023. Her practice focuses on global intellectual property portfolio management, licensing and technology for leading US and foreign companies.



Industries

Beverage & Food
Fashion & Retail Law
Media & Entertainment

Practices

Trademark
— Licensing
Copyright

International

Europe
Latin America

Languages

Portuguese
Spanish

Education

University of New Hampshire, Franklin Pierce School of Law, MIP, 1993

Federal Univ. of Rio de Janeiro, National School of Law, LL.B., 1985

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Cristina oversees an international practice that encompasses commercial transactions, intellectual property, licensing, and technology for leading US and foreign companies. She is admitted to practice law in the United States and Brazil.

Cristina currently serves on ArentFox Schiff’s Executive Committee and previously served as the Firmwide Managing Partner from 2016 - 2023 and led the firm’s highly regarded Intellectual Property group.

Client Work

Among her clients are global manufacturing companies in the food, drinks, pet care, technology, and security segments. She also advises major Brazilian companies in technology, commercial, licensing, and intellectual property-related matters in the United States and abroad. Those clients include one of the largest oil, gas, and energy companies in the world, one of the largest publishing companies in Latin America, and several large clothing, shoe, and fashion accessories companies. She has also managed the intellectual property portfolios of celebrities and sports figures, including soccer legend Pelé and late Formula 1 pilot Ayrton Senna.

Widely recognized as a leading attorney in the food and beverage industries, Cristina has extensive experience in global intellectual property portfolio management and domestic and foreign trademark prosecution and disputes. Cristina also supervises large teams of partners, associates, and paralegals in managing international intellectual property portfolios for major clients. She regularly counsels clients concerning the selection and adoption of trademarks, how to build and enhance rights in brands, and international enforcement strategies.

She has assisted clients in multimillion-dollar transactions involving the acquisition and divestiture of intellectual property portfolios. She is skilled in drafting and reviewing domestic and foreign license agreements involving trademarks and copyrights. Cristina also advises clients in trademark infringement, unfair competition, and copyright litigation throughout the United States, domain name dispute resolution proceedings, and opposition and cancellation proceedings before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board.

Previous Work

Before joining ArentFox Schiff in April 1997, Cristina practiced intellectual property law in New York City, where she managed domestic and foreign trademark portfolios for leading financial services companies, toy and sportswear manufacturers, and book publishers. She was also involved in trademark and copyright litigation, as well as in trademark proceedings before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board for significant alcohol, spirits, and beer companies.

While attending law school in Brazil, Cristina clerked for the Brazilian Patent and Trademark Office (INPI), where she drafted decisions and opinions in trademark registration appeals and opposition and cancellation proceedings. Following graduation from law school in 1985, she practiced intellectual property law for seven years in Brazil, where she was extensively involved in all aspects of technology transactions, licensing, and intellectual property protection and enforcement for North American, South American, and European clients.

Professional Activities

Cristina currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Brazilian-American Chamber of Commerce and ABRACE - Brazilian Association of Culture and Education. She also holds memberships in the International Trademark Association (INTA), the Brazilian Association for Intellectual Property (ABPI), and MARQUES, among others.

Recognitions

- Annually honored as one of Washington, DC's 'Most Powerful Women' by *Washingtonian* magazine
- Annually recognized as one of Latin America's Top 100 Female Lawyers by *Latinvex*
- Recognized as a leading trademark attorney by *World Trademark Review*. *WTR* notes, "Carvalho's nuanced international expertise is a primary weapon in her diverse arsenal; she is especially talented when it comes to prosecution and transactional mandates that cross over into Latin America."
- Recognized by *Legal 500 USA* as a Key Attorney for Trademarks: Non-Contentious
- Recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America* for Trademark law
- Recognized as a leading Trademark and Transactions practitioner in "IP Stars" published by *Managing Intellectual Property*
- Recognized as a leading female IP practitioner in "IP Stars - Top 250 Women in IP" published by *Managing Intellectual Property*
- Recognized with the *Washington Business Journal*'s Women Who Mean Business award
- Named a 'Star of the Bar' by the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia

Presentations

- Featured guest at *Corporate Counsel*'s Women of Color's 19th Annual Conference on the panel, "Having Their Say: Conversations Between Women of Color Managing Partners and General Counsel," September 2023
- Featured Speaker, AIPLA Diversity in IP Law's 'OGs of IP,' June 2021
- Speaker, 2019 Women's Power Summit, April 2019
- "Ain't I a Woman: Intersectionality and the Workplace," speaker, 2018 Minority Corporate Counsel Association (MCCA) Creating Pathways to Diversity Conference, October 2018
- "Steering A New Ship: Women's Rise to Leadership in Law Firms," speaker, Transforming Women's Leadership in the Law (TWLL) 2018 Rising Stars Event, July 2018
- "Women in the Legal Profession: The Un-Shattered Glass Ceiling," speaker, A Women's Bar Association and the International Bar Association Event, April 2018
- "Women in Business Law," speaker, American Intellectual Property Law Association Annual

Meeting, October 2016

- “It’s Never Too Soon to Start Building Your Business,” panelist, AFNY Fox Talks, New York, October 2015
- “Latinas in the Legal Profession,” speaker, Los Angeles, September 2016
- “Trademarks and Consumer Protection,” speaker, International Trademark Association Annual Meeting, May 2015
- “Restrictions in Advertising and Use of Trademarks in Regulated Industries,” speaker, Brazilian Intellectual Property Association (ABPI) Annual Meeting, São Paulo, Brazil, August 2014
- “Innovation, Branding, and Technology - Tips for Developing and Protecting Tangible Assets,” speaker, In-House Counsel Seminar in São Paulo, Brazil, March 2014
- “Intellectual Property Protection in Brazil,” speaker, Medical Device Summit - Brazil: The Med Tech Market, October 29, 2013
- “How to Litigate Abroad - Strategies for In-House Counsel,” speaker, In-House Counsel Seminar in São Paulo, Brazil, September 2013
- “Legal Strategies For Managing a Global Portfolio of Sports Brands,” speaker and moderator, Sports Lawyers Association, Atlanta, May 2013
- “Intellectual Property Strategies to Enhance Competitiveness - Brazil, USA, and Europe - Perspectives, Opportunities and Challenges,” speaker, In-House Counsel Seminar at BM&A in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, April 2013

Life Beyond the Law

Cristina is a native Portuguese speaker and is fluent in Spanish.

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia
New York
Brazil

Court Admissions

US District Court, Southern District of New York
US Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit