

Nicole Nehama Auerbach

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Education

- J.D., *with honors* - DePaul College of Law - 1993
- Articles Editor - *DePaul Law Review* - 1992-1993
- Merit Scholarship - Illinois Women's Bar Foundation - 1993
- Dean's Scholarship
- B.A., Journalism - University of Wisconsin, Madison - 1988

Affiliations / Awards

- Contributor to "The Road to Independence: 101 Women's Journeys to Starting Their Own Law Firms" -- ABA Publishing, 2011
- One of the "Top 50 Women Lawyers in Illinois" - SuperLawyer Magazine—2010
- "40 Illinois Attorneys Under Forty To Watch," *Law Bulletin Publishing Company* - 2005
- "100 Top Women Attorneys In Chicago" - Thelegalbalance.com
- *Illinois Super Lawyer* - 2007—2011
- Founder and Board Member - Coalition of Women's Initiatives In Law
- The Institute for Inclusion in the Legal Profession Advisory Board
- Chicago Finance Exchange
- American Bar Association's Women Rainmakers Section
- Admitted to: U.S. Courts of Appeal for the 7th and 11th Circuits; U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois; State of Illinois (Federal Trial Bar)

After nearly 15 years of practice at Katten Muchin Rosenman, I resigned my partnership to help form the innovative litigation firm, Valorem Law Group (www.valoremllaw.com). Why did I risk my kids' college educations for this endeavor? Because it is a firm that embodies all that I hold sacred and feel passionate about when it comes to the practice of law:

1. The client comes first and all strategic moves and decisions must be driven to achieve the ultimate goals of the client.
2. The whole is greater than the sum of its parts; collective thought, unbridled collaboration and team efforts get you far further than individual efforts ever could.
3. The billable hour is an antiquated, inefficient and potentially unethical measure of value provided. Clients deserve to have other options available to them so that they can choose what suits their needs on a case-by-case basis.

At Valorem, I handle a variety of complex commercial litigation matters in federal and state courts around the country. I also represent clients in arbitrations, mediations, appellate work and provide "second opinions" to clients seeking an objective opinion in the face of important litigation decisions. I have been honored by my peers on several occasions. I was named one of the "Top 50 Women Lawyers in Illinois" by SuperLawyer Magazine and one of the "Forty Illinois Attorneys Under 40 to Watch" by the Law Bulletin Publishing



Representative Clients:

Kayak.com
Gensler Architecture,
Design & Planning, P.C.
RFS Surgical Systems
Bevinco American Bar
Systems
Ingersoll-Rand Company
United Laboratories
Alliant Credit Union
Boston Medical School
Miller Brewing Company
The Chicago Bulls
Orbitz Worldwide
Cole Taylor Bank
The Northern Trust
Company

Valorem Law Group
35 E. Wacker Drive, 30th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Speaking, Writing & Press

- "Making Alternative Fees Work in Litigation: How to Approach & Craft AFAs" - Center for Competitive Management (October 2010)
- *Crain's Chicago Business* - "Valorem Law Group Times the Market's Shift to Alternative Legal Billing." - September 20, 2010
- Alternative Fee Arrangements - From Theory to Practice - ARK Group/Managing Partner Conference, New York (March 2010)
- "Alternative Fee Arrangements" - ARK Group, Managing Partner Magazine Conference, San Francisco (November 2009)
- "ACC Value Challenge" webinar - Managing Partner Forum (September 2009)
- "Bucking the Trend: Tales of Successful Firms in Turbulent Times" - ABA Annual Meeting, Chicago (August 2009)
- Successful Collaborations—National Coalition of Women's Bar Associations, Chicago (August 2009)
- Co-Author, "Client Loyalty as a By-Product of Firm Leadership" - RainToday.com - (August 2009)
- Featured in "Superwomen JDs and What You Can Learn From Them" *Ms. JD* (March 2009)
- Starting Your Own Law Firm - Chicago Bar Association's - Chicago, IL (October 2008)

Company. I have also been named one of the "Top 100 Women Lawyers" by thelegalbalance.com. In 2011, I was the featured firm blogger for the Association of Corporate Counsel's "A Value-based Client-Firm Relationship" series featuring a firm perspective on alternative fees, along with an in-house perspective (provided by the general counsel of Kayak.com). I also was a contributing author to "The Road to Independence: 101 Women's Journeys to Starting Their Own Law Firms" a book published by the American Bar Association in 2011.

While skilled in all facets of litigation, including trial, I believe two things set me apart — my creativity and my love for the strategic planning of cases — in particular, using litigation tools to provide the right leverage at the right time to obtain a favorable settlement or outcome. In my opinion, there is no dispute that cannot be successfully resolved as long as the parties are open to creative resolution rather than the conventional "way-we-have-always-done-it-before" type of approach. Implementing strategic moves such as producing key documents early, foregoing routine motions or taking certain depositions first to best posture a case to highlight the other side's weaknesses is key to getting both parties to a point where successful resolution is the most likely.

In addition to my substantive work, I am committed to working on issues related to diversity. I sit on the Advisory Board of the Institute for Inclusion in the Legal Profession. In 2004, I co-founded Katten Muchin's Women's Leadership Forum and in 2008, founded the "Coalition of Women's Initiatives in Law," an organization made up of member firms and in-house counsel in the Chicago area who work to facilitate the advancement of women in law. I am a Board Member and immediate past President of the Coalition, the only organization of its type in the country. I am also a member of the Federal Trial Bar and the Chicago Finance Exchange. In addition, I have devoted significant time to *pro bono* work, helping unaccompanied children seeking asylum navigate the U.S. immigrant justice system.

Married and the mother of three boys, I have ample opportunities to hone my negotiation skills at home.