



## Sarah K. Gerkins

Associate

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Nashville, TN – 205.761.5189

Sarah Gerkins represents businesses and insureds in all aspects of complex civil litigation. Her practice focuses on the defense of claims involving general liability matters, including automobile liability, premises liability and personal injury, as well as insurance coverage disputes. Sarah effectively handles cases from inception through resolution. She is well-versed in conducting and defending depositions, drafting and successfully arguing dispositive motions, and negotiating favorable settlements for clients.

Before joining Wilson Elser, Sarah was coverage counsel at a Nashville insurance defense firm, where she gained valuable experience defending insureds in civil litigation and representing carriers in UM and UIM litigation involving bodily injury.

During law school, Sarah was a law clerk at two Knoxville, Tennessee, firms. Prior to attending law school, she worked as a paralegal at a Charleston, South Carolina firm supporting cases involving the defense of medical malpractice claims.

### Education

- University of Tennessee College of Law (J.D., 2022)
- College of Charleston Honors College (B.A. Political Science, *cum laude*, 2018)
  - Concentration in Politics, Philosophy and Law

### Bar Admissions

- Tennessee

### Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Tennessee

### Services

- Insurance & Reinsurance Defense
- Insurance & Reinsurance Coverage

## **Professional Affiliations**

- Nashville Bar Association
- Tennessee Bar Association

## **Client Wins**

### **Motta and Gerkins Obtain Summary Judgment on Counterclaims in Case Involving Breach of Lease Agreement**

Denise Motta (Of Counsel-Louisville, KY) and Sarah Gerkins (Associate-Nashville, TN) secured summary judgment in the First Circuit Court for Davidson County, Tennessee, on behalf of Wilson Elser's property holding company client. This highly contentious case involved a breach of the lease agreement and an eviction proceeding. Denise and Sarah moved for summary judgment on counterclaims asserted by the tenant-defendant, which included breach of the duty of good faith and fair dealing, breach of the implied duty of quiet enjoyment, estoppel, and unjust enrichment. After hearings that spanned three weeks, the court granted summary judgment, finding that the defendant-tenant "has not submitted evidence sufficient to create a general issue of material fact in relation to the elements necessary to prove its counterclaims."