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## 40 Under 40 2020

# Katherine Kirkpatrick



**Age:** 35

**Firm:** King & Spalding

**Job role:** Partner

**Location:** Chicago

### A significant case I've worked on:

I have worked on a number of significant cross-border investigations that were both incredibly challenging but ultimately rewarding. As an associate, I was part of the core team representing Credit Suisse in the DOJ's multi-year tax and securities investigation of the Swiss banking industry's assistance to US tax evaders. I spent a considerable amount of time in Zurich because of Swiss data secrecy limitations, and I worked very closely with many other team members from various practice groups within King & Spalding. At the same time, I was working diligently on an unrelated investigation linked to the Swiss black swan currency collapse. Despite the long hours, an investigation of that scale is invigorating. The team, which included now-FBI director Chris Wray as one of the senior leaders, was the best of the best, and it inspired me to see how we pulled together under challenging circumstances.

*"Katherine is an unstoppable advocate, undeterred by obstacles that would confound many lawyers. She has proved this repeatedly from US courtrooms to far-flung client locations on many continents. I knew Katherine would become a formidable lawyer when, as a fairly junior associate, she accompanied me to a morning preparation session in Europe with a bank's CEO whom the Justice Department was scheduled to interview that afternoon. We had arrived on a flight from New York that morning and were meeting with the CEO for breakfast in a city hotel. Through some combination of jet lag and dehydration, in the middle of the meeting Katherine passed out with her face in her plate. She revived after a minute, brushed herself off, and continued with the session as if nothing had happened. To have the poise and drive to push through that as a young lawyer and still gain the confidence of a demanding client demonstrates the resolve necessary to succeed in a difficult practice that continually surprises us."*

**Drew Hruska**

Partner at King & Spalding

**An important person in my career:**

My biggest influence has been Drew Hruska, one of my mentors at King & Spalding. In addition to his impressive and varied government experience prior to his work in the private sector, he has a fascinating and diverse international practice. Foreign clients trust him to help them navigate the most sensitive investigations, and he has shown me how to gain their trust with calm, patience, confidence, and capability. He doesn't seek out the spotlight, he has navigated many a challenging situation with aplomb, and he demonstrates the highest degree of ethics in his practice. Most importantly, he invests in his junior attorneys, and, in turn, inspires great loyalty. I strive to emulate his career.

*"While Katherine is an expert in special investigations, her greatest asset is her ability to counsel her clients to avoid them in the first instance. Katherine did an exceptional job exhibiting a comprehensive skill set in addressing our issues, and she also managed a team of professionals from multiple disciplines across numerous offices to accomplish our goal of reducing company risk and being an industry leader in compliance. When issues inevitably do arise, Katherine provides the proverbial steady hand to counsel us through the most potentially impactful of legal situations; she is truly our go-to for "bet the company" matters."*

**Jeffrey Pritchett**

*Managing director at Cerberus Operations  
and Advisory Company*

