



Kristen D. Hardy, L'14

Kristen D. Hardy is Counsel – Global Compliance at Briggs & Stratton LLC, the world's largest producer of gasoline engines for outdoor power equipment, and a leading designer, manufacturer, and marketer of construction and agricultural products. Kristen's practice includes legal compliance, anti-bribery/anti-corruption, and international trade and sanctions. Occasionally, Kristen is an adjunct professor at Marquette University Law School.

She holds director positions on the boards of several organizations, including LOTUS Legal Clinic, Milwaukee Bar Association, and the Alumni Diversity Committee at Marquette University Law School. Kristen is a past-president of the Wisconsin Association of African-American Lawyers (WAAL), one of Wisconsin's oldest and largest minority bar associations. WAAL's mission is to ensure diversity in the legal community. She is currently the Secretary for the State Bar of Wisconsin.

Kristen has been recognized as a leader in her field and within the Milwaukee community. In 2017, Kristen was awarded the Black Women Lawyers Association (BWLA) Emerging Leader Award, and in 2019, she was selected as one of Milwaukee Business Journal's 40 Under 40, Top Corporate Counsel: Rising Star, and Wisconsin Law Journal's Up and Coming Lawyers. She is a Governor Tony Evers' appointee to the Judicial Selection Advisory Committee and was also appointed to the Wisconsin Lawyer Regulation System's Preliminary Review Committee by the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

A Michigan native, Kristen holds a BA from Seton Hall University, where she competed as a Division I track and field athlete, and earned her JD from Marquette University Law School in 2014.

It was during law school that Kristen set her sights on becoming a corporate lawyer. "I had the opportunity to clerk in the legal department at Northwestern Mutual after my 1L year," she explains. "The clerkship was a pivotal moment in my life to the extent that it helped me realize my desire to become an in-house attorney." After interning at Rockwell Automation, she eventually became a compliance attorney for the company. After about five years at Rockwell, she accepted a position at Briggs & Stratton. "The scope of my role was initially international trade and sanctions, but it quickly grew to include leading the integrity program, an area I was familiar with from my time at Rockwell," she said.

Marquette Law school is proud to have Kristen as an alumna and to acknowledge her as a rising star.