

# Who's Who Women In SOUTH CAROLINA 2020



**MARGUERITE S.  
WILLIS**

**Antitrust Lawyer and Former  
Candidate SC Governor**

**M**arguerite Willis loves a good challenge – and no issue is too big nor too small for her to handle, whether she’s defending clients in complex commercial litigation or doing her part to build the next generation of women business leaders. In 2018, Marguerite ran for South Carolina’s democratic nomination for governor, joining the historic surge in women running for office. Though she had never previously run for office, Marguerite felt like the time was “up” for her to sit back and watch problems continue in the state of South Carolina.

Tackling the Toughest Antitrust Issues In the courtroom, she’s established a reputation for delivering highly effective and highly successful litigation strategies.

As the co-chair of Nexsen Pruet’s Antitrust and Unfair Competition Practice, she leads a team of attorneys in developing proactive solutions to help clients achieve business objectives while avoiding issues with federal and state antitrust and trade regulation laws.

With a track record that spans decades, Marguerite has been involved in some of the firm’s biggest verdicts. She has served as national counsel for a number of cases, including federal and state class actions, and prosecuted major antitrust matters involving a wide range of claims, from unfair trade practices and false advertising to monopolization and vicarious corporate liability.

Clients routinely rely on Marguerite for her broad depth of experience in matters governing competition, including pricing, distribution agreements, marketing programs, competitor collaboration, joint ventures, mergers and acquisitions, and advertising issues.

Marguerite is listed in South Carolina Super Lawyers for Antitrust Litigation, Class Action/Mass Torts and Business Litigation. She frequently shares her knowledge in talks on a number of topics related to her practice.

Additionally, Marguerite is an American Bar Foundation Fellow, an honorary organization of lawyers, judges, and legal scholars whose public and private careers have demonstrated outstanding dedication to the welfare of their communities and to the highest principles of the legal profession. Membership is limited to 1% of the attorneys admitted to practice in each jurisdiction.

Outside the courtroom, Marguerite brings her unique blend of ingenuity and tenacity to championing women’s initiatives. She is particularly passionate about helping women develop a strong understanding of financial issues and how to leverage that knowledge to the best of their advantage. In addition to lecturing, she is actively involved as past president of the South Carolina Women Lawyers Association and as a former member of the board of trustees of Columbia College, a private all-girls school in South Carolina devoted to instilling the principles of leadership.

She also led the effort to establish the Nexsen Pruet Women’s Leadership Institute with the goal of developing and mentoring the firm’s next generation of influential women. In addition, she founded Women in Philanthropy, an organization dedicated to harnessing the power of women and compounding individual capabilities to make charitable contributions.

Marguerite is a South Carolina native, born in Greenville. She currently lives with her husband, former Mayor Frank E. Willis, in Florence.