



Jo Backer Laird

Of Counsel

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Jo Backer Laird concentrates her practice on all aspects of art law, working with artists, private collectors, museums, art organizations and tax exempt organizations, galleries, dealers and advisors and financial institutions. Ms. Laird brings over 25 years of experience to Patterson Belknap, including 10 years as Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Christie's Inc., one of the world's leading auction houses, where she was responsible for all legal issues relating to the company's business in North and South America. She has extensive knowledge and experience in the full range of transactions and litigation issues related to works of art and the art market, including auction and private sale agreements, consignments, financing arrangements using art as collateral, commissions of art, authenticity and title disputes, artists' rights and intellectual property, and issues relating to World War II restitution and cultural property cases.

Ms. Laird was recently named in *Artnet Magazine's* list of the Art World's 10 Most Powerful Lawyers.

Prior to joining Christie's, Ms. Laird spent 10 years at Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated, where she was involved in both advisory and litigation work, including employment-related, securities and commercial matters.

Ms. Laird is an adjunct professor of Art Law at the Columbia University School of Law. She is a regular speaker on art law related topics.

Ms. Laird received her J.D. from Columbia University School of Law. She received her M.P.A. from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University and her A.B. from Princeton University.

Education

- Columbia Law School (J.D., 1980)
- Princeton University, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs (M.P.A., 1980)
- Princeton University (A.B., 1975)

Admissions

- U.S. District Court, Southern and Eastern Districts of New York
- New York

Professional Activities

Patterson Belknap

Association of the Bar of the City of New York (Former Committee Member: Committee on Art Law; Committee on International Trade; Committee on International Affairs; Committee on International Human Rights; Committee on Federal Legislation)

Board of Directors: Human Rights First

Former Board Member: Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts; New Jersey Geriatric Center of the Workmen's Circle; Children for Children

Adjunct Professor of Art Law, Cardozo Law School (2006-2010); Faculty, CLE International, Visual Arts and the Law (2004); Faculty, American Law Institute-American Bar Association, Employment and Labor Relations Law for the Corporate Counsel and General Practitioner (1994-1998); Faculty, American Law Institute- American Bar Association, Basic Law and Labor Law In Depth (1995-1998)

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS:

- The Artsy Podcast, [Episode 77: Exploring the Art Market's Best \(and Worst\) Practices](#) (May 14, 2018)
- Fordham Intellectual Property, Media & Entertainment Law Journal Podcast, [Episode: 49: The Lawyer's Role in Art Transactions, Featuring Jo Backer Laird](#) (April 20, 2018)

In the Media

In the Media

Jo Laird is frequently quoted on art-related matters. Recent quotes have appeared in:

- *Artsy's Art Market*, "[Galleries Could Face "Unnecessary and Onerous" Regulation under New Legislation](#)" (May 24, 2018)
- *The Crimson*, "[Attorney Emphasizes Political Power of Art](#)" (November 10, 2016)
- *Blouin Art Info*, "[Disaster Waiting to Happen? Freeports and the Risk of Storing Art](#)" (November 19, 2015)
- *The Observer*, "[A Mystery Basquiat in Nashville](#)" (October 20, 2015)
- *The Wall Street Journal*, "[Where to Sell Your Masterpiece](#)" (November 9, 2014)
- *The Wall Street Journal*, "[How to Check an Art Dealer's Reputation](#)" (November 9, 2014)
- *The Wall Street Journal*, "[When Art Buyers Get Cold Feet](#)" (December 15, 2013)
- *Forbes*, "[Collecting: Thieves And Forgers Rush In Where Big Spenders Dare To Tread](#)" (June 24, 2013)
- *The Spectator*, "[Bring in the lawyers](#)" (January 26, 2013)
- *The New York Times*, "[Protect Your Art With More Than a Handshake](#)" (April 2, 2010)