



JOHN A. STEN

**PARTNER AND CO-LEADER, SECURITIES
REGULATION AND LITIGATION PRACTICE AREA**

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John Sten has over 25 years of corporate, securities and white-collar criminal defense experience. Managing attorney of the firm's Boston office, he began his distinguished career as a member of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Summer Honors Program before being selected to begin his legal career in the SEC Division of Enforcement in Washington, D.C. At heart, John advises about, and successfully solves, the problems faced by his clients: regulatory, litigation-related or just day-to-day corporate issues – whatever they are and wherever in the world they may occur. As such, John also serves as outside general counsel and corporate secretary to a select number of clients.

John represents officers, directors, boards and companies in high-stakes matters involving negligence and fraud, the False Claims Act, securities, health care, public corruption and other matters at the federal, state and local levels, as well as by government regulators. He also conducts internal investigations for his clients, counsels them on remediation and corporate governance issues, and routinely handles all manner of other complex civil litigation issues.

BACKGROUND

Prior to joining Armstrong Teasdale, John spent more than 20 years in private practice at other Boston and New England area law firms. Before that, he was an Enforcement Attorney in the SEC's home office in Washington D.C. Although John has successfully won many cases by way of motion to dismiss, summary judgment or before a judge via a bench trial, he is one of the few defense attorneys to successfully try a case in front of a jury against the SEC.

EDUCATION

- Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law (J.D., *magna cum laude*, 1995)
 - The Journal of Contemporary Health Law and Policy, Editor-in-Chief
- University of Massachusetts–Boston (B.A., 1991)
 - Political Science

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- New England Legal Foundation, Member of the Board of Directors

SERVICES AND INDUSTRIES

Restructuring, Insolvency and
Bankruptcy
Class Action Litigation
Complex Commercial
Litigation
Debt Finance
Governance and Compliance
Government Relations and
Public Policy
Internal Investigations and
Regulatory Compliance
International
Litigation
Outside General Counsel
Securities Regulation and
Litigation
White-Collar Criminal Defense
and Government
Investigations
Financial Services and Banking
Health Care and Life Sciences
Technology
State Attorneys General

ADMISSIONS

Massachusetts
District of Columbia
U.S. Court of Appeals, First
Circuit
U.S. District Court, District of
Massachusetts
Supreme Court of the United
States

- Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association, Member
- Association of SEC Alumni, Member
- SEC Historical Society, Member

CHARITABLE AND CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

- Columbus School of Law (Alumni Council, 2021-2024)
- American Ireland Fund
- Hon. Joseph P. Kennedy, III, Finance Committee Member
- Hon. Shawn Dooley, Finance Committee Chair
- Brattle Film Foundation, Board of Directors

ACCOLADES

- *Massachusetts Super Lawyers*®, Securities Litigation (2004 - 2006, 2011 - 2015, 2019, 2021)
- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Commercial Litigation (2017-present)
- The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law, Distinguished Alumni Award
- Second Degree Black Belt in the Shaolin Southern Long Fist style of Martial Arts

EXPERIENCE

Dismissal of Delaware Shareholder Derivative Suit Against International Public Company

Obtained Motion to Dismiss in a Delaware shareholder derivative action against an international public company in the travel and travel booking field.

Obtained Successful Declination of SEC and DOJ Enforcement Actions Against NYSE-Traded Company

Conducted an international internal investigation on behalf of a NYSE-traded company that spanned several years and over eight countries. After inquiry, the SEC and DOJ closed their investigations into the matter in reliance of our internal investigative findings and conclusions.

Summary Judgment for Public Firearms Company in Securities Class Action

Obtained summary judgment and circuit court affirmance on behalf of public firearms company on all claims in securities class action alleging misrepresentations associated with a series of public statements regarding the level of demand for the company's products.

Representation of Hedge Fund Principals in Bankruptcy and Post-Bankruptcy Proceedings

Ongoing representation of founding members and principals of a global hedge fund in bankruptcy proceedings, as well as in civil criminal proceedings, pending worldwide.

Secured Dismissal of Multiple Derivative Shareholder Suits Against Publicly Traded

Firearms Company

Secured dismissal of three derivative shareholder suits (in federal and state court) against a public firearms company.

Dismissal of SEC Claims Against Major Financial Institution Director

Obtained dismissal and circuit court affirmance of SEC claims against a former managing director of a major financial institution.

Jury Verdict for Defendant in SEC Enforcement Action

Obtained a jury verdict in favor of broker defendant in SEC enforcement action alleging stock fraud and manipulation following two-week trial in federal district court.

Successful Representation in ADR and Litigation Involving Interest Rate Swaps and Derivative Transactions

Represented a number of institutional clients in alternative dispute resolution and litigation involving interest rate swaps and derivative transactions associated with a global financial services firm's bankruptcy.

SEC Enforcement Investigation Concerning Alleged FCPA Violations

Represented public corporation in SEC enforcement investigation concerning alleged violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA).

Dismissal of Claims Against Financial Analyst in NYSE Enforcement Proceeding

Dismissal of fraud and misrepresentation claims asserted against financial analyst in New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) enforcement proceeding regarding newly implemented NYSE rules involving trading during blackout periods.

Favorable Settlement for Exploration/Mining Corporation in Corporate Control Matter

Represented public mineral exploration, mining and claims acquisition corporation specializing in rare earth elements in litigation involving corporate control issues resulting in a favorable settlement for the corporation.

Favorable Settlement for Trading Firm in CFTC Enforcement Action

Represented foreign exchange trading firm in enforcement action initiated by the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) resulting in a favorable settlement for trading firm.

Representation of National Broker-Dealer Facing Claims Related to Collateralized Debt Obligations

Represented national broker-dealer in connection with hundreds of customer claims arising from proprietary investment products involving various grades of collateralized debt obligations.

Rare Vacatur of Arbitration Award

Obtained rare vacatur of arbitration award by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

Representation of IT Company in SEC Investigation Regarding Wrongdoing in Singapore, China

Conducted internal investigation and represented information technology and services company in SEC investigation regarding potential wrongdoing by employees in Singapore and mainland China (including smuggling, customs, tax and accounting violations). Self-reported to relevant Singapore and China regulatory authorities in conjunction with same.

Representation of Mutual Fund Portfolio Trader in SEC Enforcement Action

Represented mutual fund portfolio trader in SEC enforcement action concerning SEC claims brought under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 and the Investment Company Act of 1940.

Dismissal in First-Ever Enforcement Action Alleging Broker-Dealer Market Timing Violations

Obtained dismissal of SEC complaint in first-ever SEC enforcement action alleging broker-dealer market timing violations.

Representation of CEO, Managing Principal of Hedge Fund in SEC Proceeding

Represented chief executive officer and managing principal of emerging markets hedge fund in SEC enforcement proceeding concerning alleged misappropriation of investor funds and misrepresentations and omissions to fund investors.

Summary Judgment for Global Company in Multimillion-Dollar Securities Class Action

Obtained summary judgment and federal circuit affirmance for a global company on all claims in securities class action alleging hundreds of millions of dollars in damages arising from alleged securities fraud.

Numerous Motions to Dismiss in Derivative Shareholder Suits

Granted numerous motions to dismiss in a number of derivative shareholder suits brought nationwide against various publicly traded companies and their officers and directors.

Asset and Property Recovery for Foreign Businessman, Entity

Represented foreign businessman and Lichtenstein, Germany-based entity to recover assets and property misappropriated by defendant joint venture partners, in both the U.S. and abroad.

Jury Verdict in Manipulation and Fraud Trial

Obtained a jury verdict against the SEC in favor of broker defendant in manipulation and fraud following trial in federal district court.

Dismissal of SEC Fraud and ERISA Claims

Obtained dismissal and federal circuit affirmance of SEC fraud claims against a former managing director of a global financial institution involving ERISA and securities fraud matters.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

March 31, 2021

The Sky Was The Limit For SPACs In 2020 But Are Clouds On The Horizon For 2021?

The Show-Me Banker

March 8, 2021

Coming Soon: Requirements for Climate-Related Financial Disclosures

February 2, 2021

Too Much of a Good Thing: Increased SPAC Activity Drives Anticipated Bump in Regulatory Oversight

January 4, 2021

Congress Votes to Overturn NDAA Veto

EVENTS

November 29, 2022

How a Smoking Gun Message Illustrates the Importance of Slack ESI in eDiscovery

EDRM Webinar

May 6, 2021

Creating Liquidity Events through IPOs and SPACs, including a Private Equity Update

Smart Business Dealmakers Conference: The Future of M&A in a Post-COVID World

April 29, 2021

Transatlantic SPACs: Navigating the Waters in the U.S. and U.K.

Online Event