



MELISSA MADRIGAL

PARTNER

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Melissa Madrigal is a partner at Armstrong Teasdale focusing her practice on complex, federal white-collar and securities enforcement defense. With nearly a decade of experience, Melissa has successfully defended clients in high-stakes, high-profile matters across the country.

Melissa has represented individuals in criminal investigations and prosecutions brought under a broad array of federal criminal statutes including those related to RICO, health care fraud, securities fraud, mail and wire fraud, conspiracy, tax, government contracting fraud, money laundering, access device fraud, identity theft, fish and wildlife, terrorism, Bank Secrecy Act violations, obstruction of justice, sanctions violations, and narcotics trafficking. She also has experience representing individuals in regulatory investigations by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA).

Extending her practice to appeals, Melissa also represents clients before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

Melissa is fluent in Spanish and has represented a number of Spanish-speaking Latin American clients in U.S. criminal matters in both state and federal court.

BACKGROUND

Prior to joining the firm, Melissa spent nearly 10 years in private practice at other New York and Florida law firms. She has built a reputation for successfully handling white-collar criminal matters and regulatory investigations.

During law school, she worked as a law clerk in the U.S. Attorney's Office in Miami, Florida, in the Narcotics Division. While there she helped negotiate plea agreements with defense counsel, conducted legal research, prepared draft pleadings, assisted in trial preparation, and collaborated with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to secure indictments. She also served as a judicial intern to the Hon. Adalberto Jordan in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida.

EDUCATION

- Florida International University (J.D., 2011)
 - CALI Book Award: Legal Skills & Values III
 - CALI Book Award: Products Liability

SERVICES AND INDUSTRIES

White-Collar Criminal Defense and Government Investigations
Securities Regulation and Litigation
Appellate
Fintech
State Attorneys General

ADMISSIONS

New York
Florida
U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit
U.S. District Court, District of Columbia
U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York
U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York
U.S. District Court, District of Colorado

- CALI Book Award: Legal Skills & Values I
- Dean's List (all semesters)
- Florida International University (B.A., *cum laude*, 2008)
 - Political Science
 - Minors in International Relations and National Security Studies

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- New York Council of Defense Lawyers
- Women's White Collar Defense Association, NYC chapter
- National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Women in Criminal Defense Committee Member

CHARITABLE AND CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

- Free Arts NYC (Volunteer)

ACCOLADES

- Benchmark Litigation, Future Star (2021-present)
- *New York Metro Super Lawyers*[®] Rising Star, White Collar Criminal Defense (2016-present)

LANGUAGES

- Spanish

EXPERIENCE

Representation of CEO in Grand Jury Investigation

Represented CEO of highly successful reputation management company who was target of grand jury investigation in the Southern District of New York for fraudulently filing defamation lawsuits and procuring judgments ordering removal of online consumer complaints. After several presentations to the government, the investigation was closed.

Representation of High-Profile Politician

Represented former New York City mayor in connection with an investigation by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York.

Representation of Client in Prosecution for Iran Sanctions Violation

Represented Chinese national in criminal prosecution in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia on charges of violating the U.S. Iran sanctions program. Obtained a six-month sentence of time served – one of the most lenient sentences ever imposed in such a prosecution.

Negotiated Deferred Prosecution Agreement for Client Charged with Operating Illegal Money Transmitting Business

Persuaded U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York to agree to a

non-criminal disposition for a real estate developer on felony charge of operating an unlawful money transmitting business.

Representation of Hedge Fund Portfolio Manager in Securities Fraud Case

Represented hedge fund portfolio manager in two-week criminal trial in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York on securities fraud charges, alleging that client mismarked the securities of a multibillion-dollar hedge fund.

Representation of IT Expert in Bitcoin Fraud, Bank Bribery Trial

Represented information technology expert in bitcoin-exchange fraud and bank bribery trial in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.

Successfully Negotiated \$22.5 Million Restitution Action in Lacey Act Case

Represented father and son in largest-ever prosecution in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York for the importation of illegally caught seafood and wildlife (Lacey Act). Successfully appealed restitution judgment against son in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and negotiated a resolution of the \$22.5 million criminal restitution action against the father for one-third of the total judgment ordered by the court under a multi-party agreement involving the United States, as well as governments of South Africa and the Bailiwick of Jersey.

Representation of Chief Financial Officer in Internal and Parallel SEC and DOJ Investigations

Represented Chief Financial Officer of public company in corporate internal investigation and parallel SEC and DOJ investigations relating to accounting fraud.

Representation in Largest Health Care Insurance Fraud Case in SDNY

Represented the lead defendant on appeal in the largest health care/no-fault automobile insurance fraud scheme prosecuted in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.

Insider Trading-Related Internal Investigation

Successfully represented a Big Tech employee in an internal investigation related to insider trading.

Representation of Former Defense Minister of Central American Country

Represented former Defense Minister of Central American country in dispute with political magazine over defamatory article. Succeeded in persuading the publication to edit the article to remove the defamatory material.

Representation of Physician Charged with Overprescribing Oxycodone and Fentanyl

Represented physician at trial charged in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York with unlawful distribution of oxycodone and fentanyl.

Representation of Cryptocurrency Company and C-Suite Executives in Federal Grand Jury Investigation

Represented a cryptocurrency company and its c-suite executives in a federal grand jury investigation conducted by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York regarding manipulative trading of cryptocurrency on the exchange and the use of unlawful incentives to boost trading volume in anticipation of an ETF application with the SEC.

Representation of Executive in Prosecution for Scheme to Defraud HUD

Represented an executive of a public company at sentencing and on appeal in connection with prosecution of a scheme to defraud the U.S. Department of Housing

and Urban Development. Secured a below-Guidelines sentence after being retained to represent client after guilty verdict at trial.

Representation in Largest Ponzi Scheme Prosecuted on Long Island

Represented a lead defendant at sentencing and on appeal in the largest Ponzi scheme prosecuted on Long Island.

Representation of Individual Charged in Nationwide Scheme to Divert and Resell Specialty Prescription Medications

Represented individual at sentencing charged by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York in connection with a nationwide scheme to divert and resell specialty pharmaceuticals.

Representation in Multibillion-Dollar Ponzi Scheme Case

Represented high-level bank executive charged in multibillion-dollar Ponzi scheme in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida.

Representation of Attorney in Federal Prosecution for Extortion

Represented attorney on charges of extortion and conspiracy to obstruct lawful government functions. Client received a non-custodial, probationary sentence.

Pro Bono Representation of Victim of Sex Trafficking

Represented victim of sex trafficking in case prosecuted by the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office. Succeeded in preventing prostitution charges and secured a T-visa residency status for the client as a non-immigrant victim of human trafficking.

Representation of Psychiatrist Charged with Medicare Fraud

Represented lead defendant in seven-week trial prosecuted in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida involving a \$205 million Medicare scheme related to the operation of partial hospitalization programs throughout South Florida and Orlando.

Representation of Online Invention Marketing Company and its CEO in Parallel Regulatory and Civil Proceedings

Represented Miami-based online invention marketing company and its CEO in parallel investigations by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and class action litigation brought in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.