

WHITE-COLLAR CRIMINAL DEFENSE AND GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATIONS

Businesses in a wide range of industries are under increased scrutiny and are subject to constantly evolving rules and restrictions. Clients turn to Armstrong Teasdale's White-Collar Criminal Defense and Government Investigations lawyers when they find themselves the target of complex criminal and civil investigations brought by outside agencies or organizations.

We have broad experience representing clients, including companies and individuals, such as C-suite executives, municipal officials, government contractors, physicians and others, in the investigation and defense of high-profile, often contentious cases at both the state and federal levels. This includes significant experience handling government subpoenas, as well as jury trial experience in matters involving price fixing and other antitrust charges, health care, bank and securities fraud including money laundering, market manipulation, espionage, commercial lending, regulatory and criminal gambling violations, and tax evasion. In addition, our lawyers have assisted clients with matters involving violations of the Medicare/Medicaid Anti-Kickback Statute; environmental laws, including the Clean Water Act and Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA); criminal bribery and extortion charges; the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO); immigration and trade practice violations; Unfair, Deceptive and Abusive Practices (UDAPP); federal False Claims Act (FCA) and qui tam cases; and fraud investigations in the commercial lending, pharmaceutical, mining, education and aeronautics industries, to name a few. We provide counsel to clients regarding compliance with and possible violations of U.S. laws such as the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) and international anti-corruption conventions, including the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention, the U.N. Convention Against Corruption and the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption.

Our wide range of experience means we can address and defend what often are multifaceted criminal, civil and/or regulatory matters. We represent clients in high-profile parallel suits that can arise during criminal investigations involving civil fraud, securities matters, insider trading and enforcement actions, including those prosecuted by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Because our skilled team includes a former SEC enforcement lawyer, state securities officials and members of the U.S. Attorney's Office across jurisdictions, we have a unique perspective and approach client matters with a rare familiarity.

Our white-collar criminal defense and government investigations lawyers, including former federal prosecutors, have also had significant success in persuading regulators to decline pursuing charges. We work closely with clients and prosecutors to resolve matters before charges are filed, which helps clients avoid criminal prosecution and the damaging consequences that follow.

In recent years especially, our lawyers have seen the number of qui tam cases brought under the federal FCA against corporate defendants more than double. The FCA, which allows private whistleblowers to sue companies on behalf of the government, contains drastic penalties resulting in annual total settlements and judgments in the billions of dollars. Engaging counsel to conduct an internal investigation before a disgruntled employee becomes a whistleblower may allow the company to entirely avoid a qui tam action.

EXPERIENCE

Defense of Client in Contested Sentencing Proceeding

Successfully defended the president of an engineering consulting firm and his company in a contested sentencing proceeding in a criminal environmental case in the Middle District of Pennsylvania. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sought substantial jail time plus fines and restitution in a Clean Water Act prosecution. The Court accepted defense arguments and sentenced the client to time served with a three-year period of probation and no fine or restitution. The company received a five-year probationary term and a \$10,000 fine, a fraction of the amount sought, and no restitution.

Dismissal in Alleged Voter Fraud Case Generating National Media Attention

Represented a former supervisor for a political advocacy group in a case alleging that canvassers were illegally paid to register Nevada voters during the 2008 presidential campaign. The case, which was dismissed, garnered national media attention from the New York Times and Washington Post.

Representation of Major International Pharma Company in Qui Tam Litigation

Represented a major international pharmaceutical company in *qui tam* litigation alleging violations of the False Claims Act and Anti-Kickback Statute.

Successful Defense of State Senator Against Federal Bribery Charges

Successfully defended, as part of a team, a state senator against federal bribery charges.

Won Dismissal of Class Action Securities Litigation Alleging Market Manipulation for Brokerage Firm

Represented a brokerage firm in class action securities litigation alleging manipulation of options market. Won motion to dismiss. Affirmed on appeal by the Third Circuit.

Reduced Sentence on Appeal in First-of-its-Kind Clean Air Act Violation

Handled the first criminal case in Nevada in which someone was prosecuted for violation of the Clean Air Act following a building implosion that released asbestos into the air. The client was given a misdemeanor sentence on appeal.

Representation of Aerospace Engineering Company in Debarment Proceedings

Successfully represented aerospace component engineering company in administrative debarment proceedings.

Criminal Investigation Results in No Charges Filed

Represented client in federal criminal investigation of violations of federal commercial statutes by company and its officers, resulting in no charges filed against client.

Defense against Computer Tampering Claims

Defended client against alleged violation of computer tampering statute, and coordinated interaction with investigative agency and prosecutor's office. As a result, all charges against the client were dropped.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

October 26, 2023

SEC Anticorruption Enforcement Actions in FY2023: What You Need to Know

September 20, 2023

SEC Extends Whistleblower Protection Rules to Private Business Use of Employee Confidentiality Agreements

March 22, 2023



AT Health Law Beat, March 2023

March 12, 2023

Governments Extend a Safety Net for SVB Depositors while Signature Bank Shuttles

March 11, 2023

Staying Ahead of Silicon Valley Bank's Collapse

March 1, 2022

Crypto and Blockchain's Surging Wave of Data Laws (Part I of IV)

June 11, 2021

Biden Administration Beseches Business Leaders – Better Cybersecurity Now

March 3, 2021

New DOJ False Claims Act Enforcement Priorities Emphasize Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic