



McGuireWoods

**LAW ENFORCEMENT POLICY
AND PRACTICE REVIEWS**

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Our diverse citizenry has one great need in common: dependance on police and law enforcement to keep their communities safe and to assure individuals maintenance of their civil rights. The police function is essential to our system of ordered liberty that provides protection to people and their communities from crime and violence. Men and women in law enforcement risk their lives every day to protect their fellow citizens. They often make life-or-death decisions in a matter of seconds, which may then be closely scrutinized for months or years to come, including in legal proceedings.

To properly do their work, police departments and other law enforcement agencies have to establish, maintain and periodically review and update their policies and practices for the use of force, including deadly force. When an officer-involved shooting or other major incident occurs, they need to be prepared to react and respond appropriately.

Our Law Enforcement Review team, which is part of the firm's nationally recognized Government Investigations & White Collar group, leverages combined legal and law enforcement experience to provide advice and counsel based on a comprehensive study of policies, training, and internal procedure. Our expertise is built on experience at the local, state, and federal levels, including at the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), which is both the Nation's largest law enforcement agency and often a lead investigator of major police-involved incidents. As appropriate, we team with recognized experts in law enforcement policy and management to comprehensively address the issues and challenges that modern law enforcement agencies and their parent organizations face today.



ABOUT OUR TEAM

Our group is led by a team with attorneys who have experience working closely with federal, state, and local law enforcement as prosecutors and senior government officials. We leverage relationships with a team of law enforcement professionals with decades of experience to support our work, and our affiliated consulting firm, McGuireWoods Consulting, can help with effective messaging to government officials and the public.

The Law Enforcement Review team at McGuireWoods is part of an elite Government Investigations and White Collar Litigation Department that has been recognized as a Law360 Practice Group of the Year. Our senior team is comprised of a deep bench of lawyers with decades of experience working with law enforcement, including former U.S. Attorneys, a former Attorney General of Virginia, and more than a dozen former prosecutors at the federal and state levels. Our team also leverages the strengths of our highly-regarded colleagues at [McGuireWoods Consulting](#), our consulting arm which includes an experienced team of government-relations and communications professionals. Our combined Law Enforcement Review team includes:

- Former Attorney General of Virginia
- Former U.S. Attorneys, Assistant U.S. Attorneys and other Federal prosecutors
- Former State Prosecutors
- Former Assistant Attorney General for the Justice Department's National Security Division
- Numerous government-relations and communications consultants

The sum total of experience represented by these experts includes:

- The investigation of officer involved shootings.
- Supervision and oversight of major law enforcement agencies, projects and operations;
- Legal analysis of the use deadly force and of deadly force policies and practices;
- Detailed fact investigation of incidents and occurrences where deadly force was used or contemplated.
- Examination and analysis of the maintenance of civil rights in the context of law enforcement operations.



HOW WE CAN HELP

Whether a law enforcement agency is responding to a major incident or taking proactive steps to improve its policies and procedures, our team can provide a credible process by which experts are engaged to conduct a thorough review and assessment of existing policies and practices, identify areas for improvement, and help to implement appropriate changes. This involved process gives confidence to our clients, and to the public, that the department or agency is taking proactive steps to identify and address relevant issues and will accomplish real change when necessary.

While matters can vary based on the circumstances, a typical review might include the following:

Reviewing use-of-force policies

Assessing training practices

Providing advice on how to improve these areas

Assisting in implementation of improvements

Evaluating policies and procedures for the review of officer-involved shootings or other use-of-force events

As attorneys, our communications with departments and agencies can where appropriate be confidential and privileged, which may be important to fostering candid communications in the context of our review and advice. At the same time, we can help in providing public summaries of the review process and elected changes to policies and procedures which keep the public and key stakeholders informed and confident in the process.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- McGuireWoods conducted a high-profile audit of hundreds of officer-involved shootings on behalf of a police oversight agency for a major municipality. We examined the agency's investigative processes from end to end, assessing strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement. In order to inform our critique, we also reviewed and analyzed use of force policies across the country. As a result of our review and in-depth analysis of the officer involved shooting investigations, we made numerous recommendations for changes to the oversight agency's practices and policies.
- McGuireWoods conducted a comprehensive review for the police department in a major city, which included an assessment of its internal affairs unit, its hearing process, and command staff. Working in close coordination with experienced law enforcement professionals, we reviewed policies and procedures and conducted interviews inside and outside the department. We prepared a report of our findings and made recommendations for improvement and to bring the department's practices in line with guidance from DOJ's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS).



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ABOUT OUR GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATIONS & WHITE COLLAR LITIGATION DEPARTMENT

The Government Investigations & White Collar Litigation Department at McGuireWoods is a nationally recognized team of more than 80 attorneys representing Fortune 100 and other companies and individuals in the full range of civil and criminal investigations and enforcement matters at both the federal and state level. Our senior team is comprised of a deep bench of former federal officials, including former U.S. Attorneys, more than a dozen federal prosecutors, and an Associate Counsel to the President of the United States. Strategically centered in Washington, our Government Investigations & White Collar Litigation is proud to be recognized as an elite practice, most recently honored by Chambers USA with a highly regarded nationwide ranking for Corporate Crime & Investigations, honored twice as White Collar Practice Group of the Year by Law360, and consistently ranked among the world's leading investigations firms on the Global Investigations Review 100 guide to top cross-border investigations practices. The Legal 500 United States, a premier list of the country's best law firms, also commended McGuireWoods for the "exceptional quality" of our powerhouse white collar litigation practice.

For more information about the breadth of the capabilities of the Government Investigations & White Collar Litigation Department, please contact department chair Jason H. Cowley at jcowley@mcguirewoods.com or at +1 704 343 2030.

ABOUT MCGUIREWOODS

McGuireWoods has 1,100 lawyers in 21 offices across the United States and other countries. Over its 187-year history, we have earned the loyalty of our many longstanding clients with deep understanding of their businesses and broad skills in complex regulatory and compliance matters, high-stakes disputes, and transactional matters. For more than a decade, McGuireWoods has been ranked on BTI Consulting Group's "Client Service 30" list of law firms serving Fortune 1,000 companies — elite firms singled out for client service excellence based on unprompted feedback from corporate counsel. Its full-service public affairs arm, McGuireWoods Consulting LLC, offers infrastructure and economic development, strategic communications and grassroots advocacy, and government relations solutions. For more information, visit www.mcguirewoods.com.

McGuireWoods

Nationwide highly regarded ranking for Corporate Crime & Investigations



Multiple partners named “White Collar, Regulatory & Compliance Trailblazers”



Named to the “Client Service A-Team”



Multiple government investigations partners named “Lawyers of the Year”



Ranked among the world’s top 100 firms for four consecutive years for our “heavyweight team of white-collar investigators that bring decades of high-stakes work experience”



One of the “Most Recommended Law Firms” 17 years in a row, a distinction shared with only 9 other firms



Named a Practice Group of the Year



Nationwide ranking for corporate investigations and white collar criminal defense



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