





McGuireWoods

STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL PRACTICE



As the top law enforcement officer in each state, attorneys general ("AGs") leverage unique criminal, civil, and consumer protection authority against companies and entire industries. They can be formidable adversaries, or powerful allies. Their enforcement efforts often span borders and subject matter areas, as AGs band together to bring multi-state actions. Companies that have employees, engage with consumers, have marketing efforts, or even just produce a product or service may have to interface with one or more state AGs on issues including antitrust, cybersecurity, consumer protection, data privacy, environmental impact, and labor laws. AGs are also increasingly partnering with the federal government to bring regulatory and enforcement actions, ranging from United States Attorneys to agencies like the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

McGuireWoods offers clients a unique perspective on how to handle state-based agency and attorneys general actions. Given our depth of knowledge, experience, and political connections, our firm is particularly well-suited to represent clients in these matters. Our attorneys and consultants have established credibility with state officials that only decades of experience can provide, including:

- Direct, personal relationships with most governors and attorneys general across the country, and their senior staffs
- Understanding the political landscape that influences policy development and enforcement actions
- Deep experience with message development and strategic positioning before meetings with AGs and governors
- Organizing follow-up and providing counsel on ways to keep the client top-of-mind and relevant through McGuireWoods Consulting
- Advising on compliance in ethics/lobbyist registration, PAC/political giving, and lobbying/grassroots lobbying

McGuireWoods attorneys help clients develop comprehensive strategies regarding inquiries and investigations from state and federal regulators, including specifically state attorneys general, and act proactively, leveraging relationships with legislative and administrative bodies at every level. We provide clients with the value and convenience of "one-stop shopping," offering integrated legal, public policy development, lobbying, and issue advocacy services. A thoroughly bipartisan team, we have deep experience across the nation in both the courtroom and the halls of government.

ABOUT OUR TEAM

McGuireWoods attorneys have defended corporations in a wide variety of AG matters, including one of the most notable enforcement efforts of the last two decades that included almost every state and territory's AG as well as federal enforcement. Our team includes two former Chief Deputy Attorneys General of Virginia spanning four administrations, a former New York Assistant Attorney General who served across three administrations, and the former Deputy Enforcement Director of the CFPB, among many more with experience working for AGs in states as diverse as Georgia and Colorado.

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Our team is backed by the full power of McGuireWoods, including former assistant U.S. attorneys from federal jurisdictions across the country, senior former officials from the SEC, FINRA, CFPB, and DOJ. When a problem implicates public policy or political relationship concerns, McGuireWoods Consulting offers comprehensive experience with AGs offices on both sides of the aisle.

Whether a company receives a seemingly innocuous inquiry letter or finds itself answering a suit brought by a transcontinental coalition of AGs, McGuireWoods attorneys bring a unique perspective informed by decades of public service and successfully defending all manner of AG matters across the country.

HOW WE HELP

AGs are often motivated by a broad public problem. McGuireWoods' team spots underlying issues for businesses and counsels them through enforcement activity, often before formal subpoenas are even issued. The team excels at evaluating risk through a political lens in addition to navigating the law and facts of a given situation. Whether it is a criminal defense, civil response, administrative action—or merely the response to an initial inquiry letter—McGuireWoods attorneys are able to work across subject matter areas, from letter response to trial.

Fortune 500 companies, senior executives, boards of directors, and high-profile political leaders repeatedly call on McGuireWoods to handle matters involving AGs, including:

Minimizing litigation exposure by designing creative strategies to address AG policies

Navigating privilege, privacy, and confidentiality concerns in connection with sensitive potential testimony and document productions

Maintaining a trusted relationship with AGs to facilitate an open dialogue for clients

Directing media and public relations and developing crisis management strategies

Responding to subpoenas in civil and criminal contexts

Overseeing board and shareholder relations, litigation, and other ancillary matters

Negotiating with AGs to limit the scope of inquiries, or even challenging AGs jurisdiction (which often comes from complex statutes) to bring enforcement actions in the first place

Counsel clients through monitorships or serve as a monitor

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REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Legal strategy and defense of multi-national corporation against nation-wide consumer protection action that spanned civil lawsuits, federal bankruptcy, and other follow-on actions.
- Represent publicly traded client in civil investigative demand for information and documents from the Virginia Attorney General related to the Virginia Antitrust Act.
- Subpoena response to New York Attorney General's Office on behalf of oil and gas company subject to industry wide civil pricegouging investigation.
- Represent publicly traded company in the consumer finance space in consumer protection investigations brought by 11 attorneys general.
- Represent qui tam plaintiffs in investigations into allegations of Medicare fraud with the Florida Attorney General's Medicare fraud unit.
- Defend pharmaceutical client in the Illinois Attorney General's average wholesale price (AWP) litigation against numerous pharmaceutical companies.
- Represent one of the largest international insurance brokers in investigations conducted by the Attorney General of New Jersey and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey involving allegations of corruption and self-dealing by a former employee in connection with brokerage services provided to New Jersey municipalities and school boards.
- Represent national insurance brokerage firm in response to extended inquiry by New York Attorney General into compensation practices in the insurance industry. Inquiry concluded with no action against our client.

- Represent national banks in response to New York Attorney General's inquiry into industrywide compliance with debt-collection law changes.
- Advise national bank on Connecticut Attorney General enforcement risk in connection with proposed state legislation regulating debt collection.
- Represent large domestic paper manufacturer in the nationwide federal class-action and various state commercial tissue products antitrust litigations that involved claims brought by the attorneys general of New York, Kansas, West Virginia, Maryland, and Florida.
- Resolution of wage and hour class action brought by sales account managers claiming unlawful deductions from commission wages and failure to reimburse for automobile and mobile phone expenses, including civil penalties claims under California's Labor Code Private Attorney General Act (PAGA).
- Represent publicly traded energy company in response to a criminal grand jury investigation by the Pennsylvania Attorney General involving allegations that a gas leak caused an explosion destroying a farm.
- Represent an energy company in appealing a \$25.1 million fine imposed by the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources for alleged environmental violations associated with coal ash at a North Carolina site. This fine was the largest environmental fine in state history. The client faced similar violations at 13 other sites throughout the state, so the outcome of this matter was to have a major impact on future defense proceedings. A favorable settlement on behalf of our client resolved groundwater violations at all 14 coal ash storage sites in the state.

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- Represent one of the world's largest professional services firms in an investigation by the state of Wisconsin into several government-funded programs audited by the client.
- Represent one of the world's largest professional services firms in two cases arising out of the liquidation of Illinois domiciled insurers.
- Represent publicly traded company in proceedings brought by the New York Attorney General's office for alleged violations of the Consumer Protection Act and misrepresentations as to an exhibition in New York City. Also represent client in an investigation brought by the Connecticut Attorney General concerning a similar exhibition in Hartford.
- Represent a brewing company in its response to state attorney general inquiries related to closing a brewery location. This includes responding to significant civil investigative demands, with thousands of documents to produce/protect, and working with the DOJ in the investigations of the closing.
- Represent telecommunication service provider in a class action/private attorney general act claim alleging violation of California's "suitable seating" law. Successfully negotiated highly favorable terms for a global settlement of a nationwide labor grievance and California class action alleging the company failed to provide suitable seating to employees in retail stores.

- Represent Fortune 500 company in investigation of auto lease termination practices and charges involving multiple state attorneys general.
- Represent national auto maker in litigation by coordinating and responding to requests from 40 state attorneys general for independent investigations in various state court proceedings throughout the country.
- Defend major asset manager in New York Attorney General's investigation into alleged prevailing wage violations in connection with real estate holdings.
- Represent real estate developer in interactions with the New York Attorney General and other local prosecutors in seeking to open an investigation into illegality by a business counterparty.

KEY CONTACT



KEVIN B. FRANKEL
PARTNER
+1 415 844 1974
kfrankel@mcguirewoods.com
Chair, State Attorneys General Practice

SENIOR STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL TEAM



JOHN D. ADAMS PARTNER +1 804 775 4744 jadams @mcguirewoods.com



ERIN B. ASHWELL PARTNER +1 804 775 1002 eashwell @mcguirewoods.com



MARK T. BOWLES PARTNER +1 804 775 1904 mbowles@ mcguirewoods.com



ALEX J. BRACKETT PARTNER +1 804 775 4749 abrackett@ mcguirewoods.com



V. KATHLEEN DOUGHERTY PARTNER +1 757 640 3840 vkdougherty@ mcguirewoods.com



JEFFREY EHRLICH PARTNER +1 202 857 1717 jehrlich@ mcguirewoods.com



MICHAEL FRANCISCO PARTNER +1 202 857 1722 mfrancisco@ mcguirewoods.com



JIM H. HODGES
PRESIDENT, STATE
GOVERNMENT
RELATIONS
+1 803 251 2301
jhodges@
mcguirewoods.com



SALWA KAMAL ASSOCIATE +1 415 490 0926 skamal@ mcguirewoods.com



JODIE HERRMANN LAWSON PARTNER +1 704 343 2329 jlawson@ mcguirewoods.com



KRISTEN LEE ASSOCIATE +1 415 844 1984 klee@ mcguirewoods.com



LAURA COLOMBELL MARSHALL PARTNER +1 804 775 4311 Imarshall@ mcguirewoods.com



BERNARD L.
MCNAMEE
PARTNER
+1 804 775 1942
bmcnamee@
mcguirewoods.com



MONA G. MOHIB SVP GOVERNMENT RELATIONS +1 202 857 2912 mmohib@ mwcllc.com



KENNETH M.
NEIGHBORS
PARTNER
+1 404 443 5710
kneighbors@
mcguirewoods.com



MICHAEL P. REYNOLD SVP ADVOCACY STATE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS +1 804 775 1917 mreynold@ mcguirewoods.com



DARREN W. STANHOUSE COUNSEL +1 202 857 2448 dstanhouse@ mcguirewoods.com



FARNAZ FARKISH THOMPSON PARTNER +1 202 857 2488 fthompson@ mcguirewoods.com



EVAN X. TUCKER ASSOCIATE +1 804 775 1067 etucker@ mcguirewoods.com



JACK L. WHITE PARTNER +1 703 712 5474 jwhite@ mcguirewoods.com

ABOUT OUR GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATIONS AND 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 and White Collar practice, 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, highstakes 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

Named to the "Client Service A-Team"



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"



Nationwide ranking for corporate investigations and white collar criminal defense



Named a Practice Group of the Year



Multiple partners named "White Collar, Regulatory & Compliance Trailblazers"

THE NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL

Multiple government investigations partners named "Lawyers of the Year"

Best Lawyers

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



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