

McGuireWoods

CAMPAIGN FINANCE INVESTIGATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT



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The FBI calls public corruption its number one criminal investigative priority, devoting more resources to it than any other area. Other federal and state agencies place a similar emphasis on public corruption, with a particular focus on campaign finance law violations. These priorities put politically active businesses and individuals in the crosshairs of government enforcement.

Raising the stakes even further is the complex nature of campaign finance law, with restrictions that are rarely intuitive and vary from one jurisdiction to the next. Great risk can lie even in inadvertent violations, such as corporate reimbursement of employee contributions, illegal “facilitation” of contributions, exceeding contribution limits, “pay-to-play” violations, unknowing “in-kind” contributions, and many other ways of violating federal laws and regulations during an election cycle.

ABOUT OUR TEAM

Our Campaign Finance Investigations and Enforcement team at McGuireWoods is part of a Chambers-ranked Government Investigations and White Collar Litigation Department that has been named Law360 Practice Group of the Year twice in the last six years. Strategically positioned across the U.S. – with nearly 40 lawyers in Washington – our team of 80 professionals understands the stakes associated with government investigations. With decades of experience in public corruption investigations and campaign-related enforcement actions, our team is led by a former Chief Counsel to a presidential campaign and leverages the experience of more than a dozen former federal prosecutors and senior enforcement officials. Our colleagues at [McGuireWoods Consulting](#) likewise include former elected officials, Executive Branch officials, and congressional staffers. Combined, our team includes:

- Former Chief Counsel to a presidential campaign
- Former Associate Counsel for the President of the United States
- Former Attorney General of Virginia
- Former U.S. Attorneys and more than a dozen federal prosecutors
- Former high-level enforcement officials at the Justice Department
- Former Assistant Attorney General for the Justice Department’s National Security Division
- Former Chief of Staff to former Governor Terry McAuliffe and former U.S. Senator Jim Webb
- Former Chief of Staff to U.S. Senator John Hoeven
- Former Member of Congress and White House Political Director
- Senior Congressional staffers from both sides of the aisle



HOW WE HELP

Clients of our McGuireWoods Campaign Finance Investigations and Enforcement team include campaigns, businesses, non-profits, major donors, public officials, candidates, national and state party committees, and senior party officials, whom we help at all phases of investigative activities by the FEC and DOJ. For issues discovered before government involvement, the team has the tools to determine what happened, why it happened, and what to do about it. Once the government becomes involved, our team's decades of government experience have earned it a reputation for knowing how to interface with enforcement officials and reach a resolution no more severe than necessary. And, in the event of trial, the team has tried dozens of public corruption cases.

Clients have called on McGuireWoods to handle a broad range of campaign finance matters, including:

Designing compliance programs covering federal election activity

Defending against FEC complaints from outset through resolution

Responding to federal investigations of alleged campaign finance violations led by DOJ's Public Integrity Division

Negotiating resolutions of campaign finance enforcement matters with government enforcement counsel

Responding to subpoenas issued by government agencies regarding alleged campaign finance violations

Overseeing board and shareholder relations related to campaign finance investigations

Conducting internal investigations for corporations regarding potential violations of federal campaign finance laws and regulations

When appropriate, resolving potential violations of campaign finance laws or regulations with the FEC through the self-submission voluntary disclosure process

The McGuireWoods' Campaign Finance Investigations and Enforcement team knows how to identify clients' campaign finance issues, and gauge their potential legal, political, and reputational consequences. Once campaign finance issues do arise, our team helps clients limit the collateral consequences by developing strategies to mitigate the risk of litigation and criminal exposure. And, when needed, our team collaborates with McGuireWoods' Strategic Risk and Crisis Management Group to address ancillary issues like board and shareholder relations, media inquiries, political considerations, and other crisis management matters.



REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Represented major corporation in FEC enforcement action regarding use of employee bonus program for federal campaign contributions
- Represented presidential campaign in FEC proceeding involving allegations of self-dealing by senior campaign officials
- Represented U.S. Congressman in obtaining dismissal of all criminal charges in DOJ Public Integrity prosecution relating to use of campaign and official funds
- Represented House Majority Leader in six-year DOJ Public Integrity six-year investigation resulting in no charges relating, in part, to contributions to a political action committee
- Represented national and state party committees and committee members in a federal RICO action alleging fraudulent fundraising scheme
- Represented high-net-worth federal campaign donor in DOJ Public Integrity investigation of potential \$1 million corporate conduit federal campaign contribution
- Represented a company and its CEO in DOJ Public Integrity criminal investigation of several million dollars of alleged corporate conduit federal campaign contributions
- Represented a large energy company in a joint DOJ/FEC investigation into possible improper campaign contributions
- Represented presidential campaign in response to FEC complaint regarding propriety of a campaign bank loan
- Represented an officer of a presidential inaugural committee in DOJ and congressional investigations of potential foreign contributions during a presidential election
- Represented state Speaker of the House in criminal investigation regarding campaign finance
- Represented senior political operative in DOJ investigation of state gubernatorial election
- Represented chair of national party committee in DOJ investigation of major donor contribution
- Represented finance consultant to national party committee in DOJ investigation of alleged conduit contribution during presidential election cycle



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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, 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

**Nationwide highly regarded
ranking for Corporate Crime &
Investigations**

CHAMBERS
AND PARTNERS

**Named to the “Client Service
A-Team”**



**Nationwide ranking for corporate
investigations and white collar
criminal defense**



**Multiple government investigations
partners named “Lawyers of the Year”**

Best Lawyers

Named a Practice Group 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”**



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



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



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