# **McGuireWoods**

## POLITICAL INVESTIGATIONS LITIGATION AND ENFORCEMENT



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In the face of hyper-partisan politics and an ever-growing media spotlight, companies and individuals facing scandal are more likely to be the subject of politically charged investigations and face collateral litigation and enforcement actions. When that happens, reputations, careers and businesses are put on the line. Time and again, clients have called upon the skilled members of McGuireWoods' Political Investigations, Litigation and Enforcement Team to handle their most sensitive and high-profile matters.

When scandal emerges, our experienced Political Investigations, Litigation and Enforcement Team leverages a storied history of helping corporate clients, individuals and elected officials navigate the complexities of politically charged investigations and enforcement actions. One need only look to the national headlines to find the matters we have led. From the Boeing MAX investigation to the Mueller probe; from the opioid crisis to clergy misconduct; from the USA Gymnastics scandal to a multi-agency investigation into a major bank's sales practices, clients trust us when they face external scrutiny and significant legal challenges.

Our seasoned team of more than 80 attorneys is strategically positioned from Los Angeles to New York—with a strong Washington, D.C. presence—and includes a former Counsel to the President of the United States, former United States Attorneys, a former state attorney general, and former DOJ and SEC officials. With the benefit of this experience, McGuireWoods maintains strong relationships with investigating agencies and understands how they operate. As a result, we bring credibility to any representation.

Our political investigations team also leverages the wide-ranging capabilities and relationships of McGuireWoods' lobbying arm, **McGuireWoods Consulting**, which is comprised of a strong bipartisan team of Capitol Hill veterans who understand the political process. This experience has never been more necessary given the current political climate.



#### **HOW WE HELP**

C-suites of Fortune 500 companies, senior executives, boards of directors and highprofile political leaders rely on McGuireWoods to handle responses to politically charged investigations from inception to resolution. We focus on minimizing the business and personal interruptions an investigation can cause. By developing strategies to reduce and address private litigation and criminal exposure, we help to navigate a cumbersome, timeconsuming process while limiting the consequences of an investigation.

We also work closely with our Strategic Risk & Crisis Management Team to manage ancillary issues, including board and shareholder relations, media inquiries and other crisis management matters.

#### **TYPES OF POLITICAL INVESTIGATIONS**

Politically-charged investigations, litigation and enforcement actions take many forms. McGuireWoods' Political Investigations, Litigation and Enforcement team has significant experience representing clients in these highly sensitive matters, which can include:

- Congressional Investigations. Congressional investigations are by their nature politically charged. McGuireWoods has worked on some of the highest-profile congressional investigations, including probes into Major League Baseball steroid use, USA Gymnastics and the "Fast & Furious" operation. We also have represented clients in connection with the opioid crisis and an executive related to the Deepwater Horizon Gulf oil spill.
- Campaign Finance Investigations and Enforcement. With limits on the number of Democrats and Republicans, the Federal Election Commission is nominally bipartisan. However, investigations into federal election and campaign finance laws are assuredly highly politicized. Our team has experience representing clients under investigation by the FEC, including the recent investigation of a major healthcare service provider.
- Election Litigation. Litigation regarding elections and election results are inherently politically-charged and can and do lead to highly-publicized, aggressive and fastmoving challenges. McGuireWoods has been at the forefront of federal and state election litigation.

- DOJ Criminal and Public Integrity Investigations. Our team includes many former prosecutors and senior leaders of the Department of Justice who bring a depth of experience responding to often politicized and publicized criminal investigations. As a result, we have responded to many investigations conducted by the DOJ Criminal Division and its Public Integrity Section, including investigations of political activity such as potential violations of campaign finance and foreign agent registration laws and regulations.
- Public Official Scandals. Law and politics unavoidably collide when a public official is accused of misconduct. We have represented elected officials in connection with such accusations, as well as organizations conducting internal investigations related to misconduct. For example, our team led the investigation into the EVMS yearbook scandal impacting Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam, and the representation of Virginia Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax and Rep. Tom DeLay. McGuireWoods has also represented a former U.S. Cabinet official, a sitting U.S. Congressperson, sitting Governors, and high-ranking political appointees in a variety of sensitive matters.
- Litigation against Foreign Governments. Navigating litigation against a foreign government requires elite experience and sophistication. McGuireWoods successfully took on North Korea and won a more than half-billion-dollar judgment on behalf of the family of Otto Warmbier, a representation that was both politically-charged and watched closely by the media.
- State Attorney General Investigations.
   Far-reaching investigations by state AGs

   often involving more than one state —
   require a coordinated, strategic response.
   Our team, led by a former state attorney
   general, assists clients in navigating and
   resolving state AG investigations. Among
   other representations, we successfully
   resolved a multiple-state AG investigation
   into a national wireless carrier, as well
   as investigations into a major financial
   institution, a healthcare provider and a
   pharmaceutical company.
- Crisis Management and Strategic Response. Fast-moving and highly publicized investigations shift a company into crisis response mode. Our crisis management team and its leaders know from experience how to counsel a client in implementing a rapid and effective response to a crisis. Senior management and board members rely on us to help protect a company's reputation in the face of negative news.



#### **ABOUT OUR TEAM**

The Political Investigations Litigation and Enforcement team is part of the elite Government Investigation & White Collar Litigation Department recognized by Law360 as a Practice Group of the Year. Many attorneys have significant experience working for the very federal and state regulatory and law enforcement agencies that bring investigations and initiate litigation against our clients. As a result, our team has the know-how and judgment to respond to, and defend against, even the most sensitive political investigations and enforcement actions.

Our team also leverages McGuireWoods Consulting, our legislative consulting arm comprising former elected officials and staffers from both sides of the aisle. Our combined team includes:

- Former Associate Counsel for the President of the United States
- Former U.S. Attorneys and more than a dozen former federal prosecutors
- Former Assistant Attorney General for the Justice Department's National Security Division
- Former Deputy Chief Counsel, Enforcement Division and Enforcement Division Attorneys for the Securities & Exchange Commission
- Former Attorney General of Virginia
- Former State Assistant Attorneys General
- Senior Congressional staffers from both sides of the aisle
- Former Chief of Staff to former Gov. Terry McAuliffe and former U.S. Sen. Jim Webb
- Former Chief Counsel to U.S. Sen. John McCain's 2008 presidential campaign
- Numerous public policy and legislative affairs consultants



#### **REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS**

- Successfully represented a former sales executive of an engine manufacturing company in a criminal with the U.S.
   Securities and Exchange Commission and U.S. Attorney's Office for securities fraud, wire fraud, and mail fraud.
- Represented the Vice President of the United States in the special counsel probe (the Mueller investigation).
- Won dismissal of criminal charges—a "stunning reversal"—against former U.S. Congressman Aaron Schock.
- Negotiated global settlements with the DOJ on behalf of a major defense contractor, aerospace manufacturer, multinational energy company and media conglomerate.
- Represented several large pharmaceutical companies in congressional probes into the opioid crisis.
- Represented a telecommunications company in an FCC and multistate AG investigation.
- Represented the family of Otto Warmbier in their lawsuit against North Korea.
- Represented a corporation in a highvisibility, politicized DOJ inquiry regarding campaign finance issues.
- Represented a healthcare provider in the largest corporate contributions case in Federal Election Commission (FEC) history.
- Represented the former president of USA Gymnastics in Congressional testimony about the recent sexual abuse investigation.
- Represented the former president of an international sports organization in a crossborder, highly politicized DOJ investigation.

- Represented a senior executive of BP in congressional hearings and DOJ and SEC investigations related to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.
- Advised educational institutions including universities and secondary schools — in various investigations and responses to campus crises.
- Represented a presidential campaign committee in an FEC enforcement action.
- Represented members of Congress in Ethics Committee and DOJ investigations, including resolution of the six-year federal investigation into former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay.
- Represented the acting director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives in the "Fast & Furious" investigation.
- Represented CIA and Department of Defense officials in the investigation into George W. Bush-era interrogation techniques.
- Served as lead counsel on several engagements involving strategy development on FAR mandatory disclosure obligations associated with alleged improprieties on government contracts and involving the resolution of suspension and debarment issues and proceedings before various agencies within the DOD and at USAID.
- Represented one of the world's largest financial institutions, leading a large-scale investigation involving the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), DOJ and other federal regulators.



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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.

Nationwide highly regarded ranking for Corporate Crime & Investigations



#### Named to the "Client Service A-Team"



Named a Practice Group of the Year

Law 366

Ranked among the world's top 100 firms for four consecutive years for our "heavyweight team of white-collar investigators that bring decades of highstakes work experience"



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

THE NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL

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Nationwide ranking for corporate investigations and white collar criminal defense



Multiple government investigations partners named "Lawyers of the Year"

Best Lawyers