Abbe David Lowell is one of the nation’s foremost white collar defense and trial lawyers. He has tried civil and criminal cases before judges and juries in more than a dozen states, argued numerous appeals before courts that include the U.S. Supreme Court, led complex international investigations, and navigated clients through congressional and administrative proceedings, often under the glare of media scrutiny. Abbe served as Chief Minority Counsel to the House of Representatives during the impeachment proceedings against President Bill Clinton. He also previously served as Special Assistant to the U.S. Attorney General and Special Counselor to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

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In addition to trying cases and arguing appeals, Abbe advises clients in their dealings with the U.S. Congress and its committees, other legislative bodies, and numerous federal and state regulatory agencies. He also works with clients on internal investigations, voluntary disclosure decisions, and developing compliance programs to prevent issues from arising with law enforcement agencies. His matters and cases often require him to navigate all of these legal issues under the glare of media scrutiny.

In criminal matters, Abbe has successfully avoided charges or defended clients against a wide array of charges, including conspiracy, election law violations, bank fraud, insurance fraud, bankruptcy fraud, Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) violations, mail and wire fraud, securities fraud, money laundering, public corruption, honest services fraud, false claims act, obstruction of justice and false information charges and
violations of the Racketeer Influenced, Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO) and the Espionage Act. In civil cases, he has helped clients win in cases of breach of contract and fiduciary duty, FCPA violations, False Claim Act, civil rights violations, conspiracy, employment discrimination, negligence, RICO violations, securities fraud, tortious interference with business, breach of fiduciary and unfair trade practices. He has conducted internal investigations responding to government, whistleblower or other allegations of FCPA, money laundering, securities and other law violations.

Abbe has been counsel to the U.S. House of Representatives twice, including when he was Chief Minority Counsel during impeachment proceedings against President Clinton and before that, as special ethics counsel to the House Committee of Standards of Official Conduct (Ethics Committee).

From 1994 to 1996, he was appointed as Special Counselor to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the investigation and prosecution of human rights violations, war crimes and other human rights projects in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia. Abbe has also served at the U.S. Department of Justice from 1977 to 1981 as a Special Assistant US Attorney, Special Assistant to the Deputy Attorney General, and Special Assistant to the Attorney General.

His high-profile clients have included national and international companies (Goldman Sachs, Intuit, GNC, Star Scientific, Bank Hapoalim), public officials (Governors Jim Gibbons and George Pataki, Senators Robert Torricelli, John Ensign, John Edwards, and Robert Menendez; Reps. Gary Condit, Charlie Wilson, Walter Fauntroy, Harold Ford, Bill Boner, Jim Weaver, Austin Murphy and Joe McDade, NY Majority Leader Joe Bruno and Puerto Rico Senator Hector Martinez), international organizations (U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights), state and local governments (City of Alexandria, Virginia), government lobbyists (Jack Abramoff; former AIPAC official Steve Rosen), businessmen (Victor Restis, Gene Phillips, Aubrey McClendon, and Sam Waksal), actors (Steven Seagal, Sean Combs) and others.

Abbe has been recognized by various publications ranging from *The National Law Journal* to *Chambers USA* as one of the most influential and most successful attorneys in the United States. He has written articles on legal issues and current political events that have been widely published. He has also written op-ed pieces for newspapers, including *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *USA Today*, and *Roll Call*, as well as articles for legal publications and websites, such as *Business Crimes Bulletin*, *American Criminal Law Review*, *Law.com*, *The National Law Journal* and *Legal Times*. Abbe wrote the chapter, “The Penal System Is Broken” for *Beyond a Reasonable Doubt*, a book edited by Larry King.

Experience

Criminal Cases

*United States v. Robert Menendez* (sitting U.S. Senator on corruption and false filing charges)

*United States v. John Edwards* (former Presidential candidate on election law charges)

*United States v. Hector Martinez* (Puerto Rico Senator charged with bribery)

*United States v. Ousama Naaman* (businessman charged with Foreign Corrupt Practices Act)

*United States v. Joseph Bruno* (former New York Senate leader charged with honest services violations)

*United States v. Paul Minor, et al.* (trial attorney charged with bribery and racketeering)

*United States v. Gene Phillips* (real estate developer/stock investor indicted for securities fraud)

*United States v. Henry Espy* (Mississippi public official indicted for election law and bank fraud)

*United States v. Loren Mintz* (bank president indicted for bank fraud)
United States v. Jack Harvard (bank president/local mayor charged with bank fraud)

United States v. Phil Palmer (leading attorney indicted for bankruptcy fraud)

United States v. Thomas Gaubert (real estate developer indicted for bank and other fraud)

United States v. Erwin Friedman (real estate developer indicted for bank and other fraud)

United States v. Peter Gill (bank CEO indicted for bank and other fraud)

United States v. Sam McKerall (real estate developer indicted for bank and other fraud)

State of Maryland v. Stephen Edwards (16 year old charged with murder)

United States v. Clarence Mitchell (state official charged with bribery)

United States v. Steven Rosen (AIPAC lobbyist charged under the Espionage Act with disclosing classified information)

United States v. Henry Cisneros and Sylvia Arce-Garcia (public officials indicted for perjury and obstruction)

United States v. Behzad Cohen (chemical company indicted by California US Attorney for violation of drug distribution laws)

United States v. Jack Abramoff (D.C. lobbyist charged with gratuities, wire fraud and tax evasion)

United States v. Roya Rahmani (political asylum grantee indicted by California US Attorney for illegally providing aid to foreign groups – case later reinstated)

United States v. Judy Wischer (bank CEO charged with securities and bank fraud)

United States v. Toussie (real estate developer indicted for tax violations)

Civil Cases

Bailey, et al. v. George Pataki, et al. (former New York Governor case involving Federal civil rights claims)

Victor Restis v. UANI (international shipping businessman defamation suit)

Gaubert v. United States (Supreme Court of the United States, US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and US District Court for the Northern District of Texas case involving claims of US violations of civil rights and tort claims)

Toussie v. Suffolk County (Federal civil rights claims)

Abramson v. JCC (Maryland highest court case establishing charitable immunity)

Lawrence v. A.S. Abell Co. (Maryland highest court case defending newspaper from invasion of privacy)

SCAD v. SVA (Georgia highest court case affirming client’s claims of civil liability for co-conspirators)

McCarthy v. City of Alexandria (federal civil rights defense)

G-I Holdings v. Baron & Budd (federal civil RICO and fraud case)

City of Alexandria, VA v. FAA (lawsuit challenging flight patterns via Endangered Species Act)

Joan Baez v. CIA (FOIA appeal)
Representative Administrative / Congressional Proceedings

In re: Impeachment Proceedings of President William Jefferson Clinton  (Chief Minority Investigative Counsel)

In re: Rep. Charles Wilson (Congressman’s ethics counsel)

In re: Rep. Mario Biaggi (Congressman’s ethics counsel)

In re: Rep. Austin J. Murphy (Congressman’s ethics counsel)

In re: Rep. William H. Boner (Congressman’s ethics counsel)

In re: Rep. Walter Fauntroy (Congressman’s ethics counsel)

In re: Rep. Roy Dyson (Congressman’s ethics counsel)

In re: Rep. Dan Daniels (Congressman’s ethics counsel)

In re: Rep. James Weaver (Congressman’s ethics counsel)

In re: Rep. Charles G. Rose III (Congressman’s ethics counsel)

In re: Lincoln Savings and Loan Association (OTS cease and desist proceeding)

Some of the experience represented here may have been handled at a previous firm.

Honors & Awards

Mr. Lowell has received numerous accolades from his peers and prominent legal publications, and he is consistently ranked among top Washington, DC, and national lawyers. Publications in which he has been recognized include:

- One of the Top 100 Trial Lawyers in America, Benchmark Litigation, 2015, 2018, 2019
- Winning Litigator, The National Law Journal, 2018
- White Collar Litigation Trailblazer, The National Law Journal, 2018
- Chambers USA “Band 1” for White Collar Defense in Washington, D.C., 2018
- Chambers USA “Recognized Practitioner” for Nationwide Litigation: Trial Lawyers, 2018
- The Best Lawyers in America©, 2005 to 2012, 2018, 2019
- The Legal 500 United States - Leading Trial Lawyer, The Legal 500, 2012 to 2018
- One of the top 30 Leading White Collar Crime Lawyers, Expert Guide’s Best of the Best USA, 2015
- One of the Top 38 Criminal Defense Attorneys in America, LawNewz.com, 2016
- White Collar Criminal Defense Attorney of the Year, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, 2013
- Benchmark Litigation: The Definitive Guide to America’s Leading Litigation Firms & Attorneys, 2008 to 2016
- Lawdragon 500, 2006 to 2009

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- Marquis Who’s Who in America, 2006 to 2009
- Marquis Who’s Who in American Law, 2005 to 2009
- Top Attorney, Washingtonian Magazine, in every survey conducted since 1986
- Top Lawyers in Washington and the Washington Universe, Vanity Fair, October 1997
- DC Lawyers To Call List, Roll Call, 1993
- Washington Power 100, Regardie’s magazine, November 1991

Activities

- Member, American Bar Association (ABA) (prior chair of the ABA Committee on Rules, White Collar Crime Section)
- Member and Conference Chair, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
- Member, International Academy of Trial Lawyers
- Adjunct professor, Georgetown Law Center in Washington, DC, teaching trial practice, evidence and advanced criminal procedure, 1984 - present
- Adjunct professor, Columbia Law School in New York, teaching trial practice, evidence and advanced criminal procedure, 2006 - present
- Trustee, The Shakespeare Theatre Company (Chair of Development, Chair of the lawyers’ Bard Association)
- Vice president and general counsel, Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington

Publications & Speaking Engagements

Publications

- "6 more leading trial lawyers share secrets of effective opening statements," ABA Journal, March 2017
- "Devil's Advocate: Defending Angelo in Measure for Measure," Asides, September 4, 2013
- "Abbe Lowell: Prosecutors' bad decisions should have real costs," The Washington Post, June 21, 2012
- "Not Every Wrong is a Crime: The Legal and Practical Problems with the Federal Honest Services Statute," Rev. En Benc. 11, 2010
- "Supreme Sentence Snafu," Legal Times, August 2007
- "Is the DOJ's New Policy of Prosecuting Corporations Real Reform or Business as Usual?," Law.com, January 31, 2007
- "The Presumption of Innocence Should Not Be Taken Lightly," Roll Call, July 19, 2006

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"Real Reform Must Scrutinize Lobbying and Lawmakers," USA Today, June 21, 2006
"Memorandum of Law in Support of Defendants Steven J. Rosen's and Keith Weissman's Motion to Dismiss the Superseding Indictment," February 2006
"Don't Scapegoat My Client," USA Today, May 23, 2005
"UN Human Rights Getting Lost In Peacekeeping Debate," June 6, 1995
"Presumption of Innocence [More than a Catchy Phrase]," Legal Times, February 21, 1994
"Bush's Violent Crime Policy is Soft on Sense," The Wall Street Journal, October 1, 1992
"Prosecutors Targeting Black Officials," The Sun and other newspapers including Legal Times, March 28, 1988
"Politicians' Ethics No Worse Than Before," Legal Times, July 27, 1987
"Money Laundering Legislation," American Banker, October 6, 1986
"The Administration That Cried Wolf [Executive Privilege]," Legal Times, August 11, 1986
"Bhopal Tragedy Breeds Legal Disaster, [Legal Ethics]," Legal Times, December 24, 1984
"The Birth of Electronic Publishing," Chapters on First Amendment and Defamation, (Knowledge Ind. 1982)

Speaking Engagements

"Prosecutorial Discretion, Neutrality & Ethics in an Age of Increasing Politicization," American University Washington College of Law, March 14, 2019
District of Columbia Court of Appeals Distinguished Speaker Series, February 21, 2019
"Read the Menu Carefully - Charging Decisions & Defense Strategies in Public Corruption Cases," ABA Southeastern White Collar Crime Institute, Braselton, Georgia, September 7, 2018
2012 NACD Board Leadership Conference, National Harbor, MD, October 14-16, 2012
Keynote Address, The Cardozo Society, Minneapolis, MN, 2011
House Judiciary Testimony (The Espionage Act), Washington, DC, December 16, 2010
Criminal Law, National Security and the First Amendment, Washington, DC, October 29, 2010
"Assessing the Impact and Outcomes of Recent Insurance Investigations," 19th International Reinsurance Congress, Bermuda, October 19-21, 2005