



George Mastoris

Partner

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An accomplished litigator, George represents a broad array of companies involved in high-stakes and high-profile civil and criminal litigations, arbitrations and appeals. His experience spans a number of substantive areas, including antitrust, securities, insurance, financial technology, and bankruptcy. George's clients include some of the world's largest financial services companies, insurance companies and multinational manufacturing concerns, as well as blockchain and biotechnology startups, commercial banks, retailers, and private equity firms.

George has served as lead counsel in price-fixing, cartel and monopolization cases, class actions, government investigations and enforcement actions, RICO actions, and complex commercial litigation. He works closely with his clients to assess and understand both their business and legal interests, and the strategic and tactical advice he provides is squarely and relentlessly focused on pursuing those goals. As a result, his clients, which include some of the most successful and innovative companies in the world, regularly turn to him and his teams for assistance with some of their thorniest legal issues. George represents both plaintiffs and defendants in litigations, adversary proceedings, and appeals, and has argued on their behalf in state and federal trial and appellate courts throughout the country. He has a deep wealth of experience in all phases of litigation, including the early and honest evaluation of claims and defenses, the briefing and argument of dispositive motions, and the development of an efficient,

focused, and flexible strategic plan for winning on summary judgment or at trial (or forcing a favorable settlement) rather than simply “managing a process.”

George also counsels clients in connection with regulatory and compliance issues relating to antitrust, securities, and financial technology, including digital assets and cryptocurrency, and has been recognized nationally for his work in the latter two areas. He is also extensively involved in pro bono work at the trial and appellate level, and is especially proud of the results he and his clients have been able to achieve in the areas of civil rights and voting rights.

George is also a member of the Bank Receivership Task Force, created in March of 2023.

Key Matters

- *City of Philadelphia, et al. v. Bank of America, et al.* Counsel for global financial institution in antitrust matter alleging price-fixing amongst competitor banks with regard to the setting of interest rates for municipal bonds
- *Sjunde AP-Fonde v. Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC et al.* Counsel for global financial institution in high-profile Rule 10(b)(5) securities class action litigation
- *In re Interest Rate Swaps Antitrust Litig.* and *Iowa Public Employees Retirement Assoc. et al. v. Bank of America Corp., et al.* Counsel for defendant Goldman Sachs & Co. in two multi-billion-dollar antitrust putative class actions
- *Factory Mutual Insurance Co.* Counsel for one of the world’s largest property and casualty insurers in over 12 litigations involving billions of dollars in claims for damages stemming from COVID-19 pandemic
- *In re DBMP LLC; In re Aldrich Pump LLC, et al.* Counsel for asbestos claimants creditors’ committees in adversary proceedings arising out of separation of billions of dollars of asbestos liabilities from solvent companies’ assets
- *NYU Medical Center v. Factory Mutual Insurance Co.* Argued and won summary judgment in US\$1.6B claim arising out of damage caused by Superstorm Sandy; decision recently affirmed by the Second Circuit
- *Harmoni International Spice Corp. v. Bai, et al.* Lead day-to-day counsel for plaintiff in high-stakes antitrust and civil RICO action against a cartel of foreign agricultural producers and their affiliates in the United States; argued and won Ninth Circuit appeal of district court dismissal
- *FCPA Investigation and Related Litigation.* Represented major financial institution in multi-billion-dollar DOJ investigation along with follow-on derivative and class action securities litigation
- *In the Matter of Gladius Network LLC.* Lead counsel for cybersecurity company in government investigation relating to digital assets; negotiated groundbreaking no-penalty settlement with SEC
- *In re Caesars Entertainment Operating Co.* Counsel to Examiner in a massively complex investigation of 27 separate debt and real estate transactions involving billions of dollars
- *Financial Technology Investigations and Advice.* Regularly advises financial technology companies in connection with compliance issues and regulatory proceedings involving digital assets and securities law
- *In re ODD Antitrust Litigation.* Represented Panasonic Corp. in billion dollar antitrust class action alleging price fixing of optical disc drives. Helped lead joint defense group’s successful efforts to defeat motion for class certification (California’s Top Verdict of 2014) and obtain summary judgment (2018 Am Law Global Legal Award Finalist), including briefing dispositive motions and overseeing expert phase of case.
- *Omnicare v. United Healthcare, et al.* Counsel in US\$1.4B price-fixing and fraud action arising out of the merger between health care conglomerates United Healthcare and PacifiCare
- *Sheridan Healthcorp, Inc. v. Avmed, Inc.* Obtained extremely favorable settlement for group of plaintiff anesthesiologists in federal and state monopolization actions against Florida HMO

- *Voting Rights Cases*. Represented Common Cause NY, American Civil Liberties Union and New York Civil Liberties Union in successful negotiations with New York State Board of Elections and Governor's office regarding ballot access and absentee ballot issues
- *Aguilar v. Immigration and Customs Enforcement*. Trial counsel to group of families subjected to pre-dawn raids by ICE; helped obtain US\$1M settlement and injunctive relief

Recent Experience

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Recognitions

George has been recognized as a "Rising Star" by *New York Metro Super Lawyers* for six years running and a "2019 Technology Law Trailblazer" by the *National Law Journal*, which recognized him for his groundbreaking work in connection with securities regulation and digital assets. George's work on the *In re ODD Antitrust Litigation* has been recognized by a number of legal publications and helped Winston be named the "2018 Antitrust Firm of the Year" by *Benchmark Litigation US* and the "2015 Team of the Year" in cartel defense by *The Legal 500 US*.

Activities

Most recently, George was named a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation.

He was recently selected to be one of the inaugural members of CompTIA's Blockchain Advisory Council, which is made up of thought leaders in the blockchain and distributed ledger industry.

George is also actively involved in pro bono work; in addition to ongoing work in the field of voting rights and campaign finance reform, he recently helped obtain a landmark settlement against Immigration and Customs Enforcement, whose officers were alleged to have conducted a number of unconstitutional home raids.

Credentials

EDUCATION

George received a J.D. from Columbia Law School in 2002, where he was a member of the Human Rights Law Review and graduated as a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar. He received an A.B. from Princeton University in 1999. In 2018, George graduated with distinction from Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies, where he focused on Strategic Studies and Conflict Management.

ADMISSIONS

- New York

Related Insights & News

Speaking Engagements

- Co-panelist, “Corporate Rep Deposition Tips and Tricks,” ALM Complex Claims & Litigation Forum (February 2023)
- Co-Moderator with Christine Edwards, “Setting the Stage: The Business Technology Climate in the Age of COVID-19,” Winston & Strawn’s Disruptive Technologies Legal Summit (September 2020)

Publications

- Co-Author, “The SEC’s Approach to Digital Asset Regulation Harms Investors,” Bloomberg Law (March 2023)
- Quoted, “Winston & Strawn Attorneys Back Digital Asset Association in Civil Crypto Fight,” The National Law Journal (March 2023)
- Co-Author with Sofia Arguello and Patrick Opdyke, “Antitrust Concerns in No-Poaching, Wage-Fixing, and Non-compete Agreements,” LexisNexis (June 22, 2021)
- Co-Author with Robert de By, “How to Avoid a Culture Clash in Business Mediations,” The Reporter (March 2007)

CLIENT ALERT

Landmark Decision in *SEC v....*

JULY 17, 2023

WEBINAR

SEC v. Ripple Labs:...

JULY 14, 2023

BLOG

SEC’s Settlement in Wahi...

MAY 31, 2023

CLIENT ALERT

FAQ Resource, by the...

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED MARCH 15, 2023 - CHECK FOR UPDATES

CLIENT ALERT

The 2023 Banking Crisis...

MARCH 17, 2023

CLIENT ALERT

Observations on Bank Rescue...

MARCH 13, 2023

ARTICLE

The SEC’s Approach to...

MARCH 8, 2023

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

Kelly Librera and George...

FEBRUARY 27, 2023

BLOG

Judge Dismisses Dapper Labs...

FEBRUARY 24, 2023

IN THE MEDIA

Winston & Strawn and...

FEBRUARY 22, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Antitrust/Competition...

DECEMBER 19, 2022

CLIENT ALERT

Winston Files Amicus Brief in *SEC v. Ripple Labs Inc.*

NOVEMBER 21, 2022

Capabilities

Antitrust/Competition

Financial Services Litigation

Bankruptcy Litigation & Investigations

Restructuring & Insolvency

Class Actions & Group Litigation

Commercial Litigation & Disputes

Financial Services Transactions & Regulatory

Litigation/Trials

Securities, M&A & Corporate Governance Litigation

Technology Antitrust

Patent Litigation

Compliance Programs

Privacy & Data Security

Health Care

Insurance

Financial Services

Cryptocurrencies, Digital Assets & Blockchain Technology

Retail & Luxury