



Angela M. Machala

Partner

Managing Partner, Los Angeles & West Coast Chair, Government Investigations, Enforcement, and Compliance

Los Angeles

+1 213-615-1997

Angela is the managing partner of Winston's Los Angeles office. She represents business entities and individuals in federal grand jury, SEC, and other government investigations. Angela has successfully defended clients charged with or investigated for theft of trade secrets, securities fraud, health care fraud, environmental crimes, FCPA violations, and defense contractor fraud. She has extensive experience in conducting sensitive internal investigations for organizations. In the civil arena, she has represented businesses accused of negligence in hiring, Lanham Act, and civil RICO claims, as well as breach of fiduciary duty, usurpation of corporate opportunity, and fraud claims.

Angela represents companies, corporate officers and directors, and executives in high-profile white-collar criminal cases, securities and regulatory enforcement matters, and in related state and federal litigation. Angela has extensive experience advising clients in a broad range of industries, including financial services, health care, environmental, and technology, in matters involving securities fraud, health care fraud, theft of trade secrets, environmental crimes, FCPA violations, and other alleged offenses. She also advises clients on negotiating with the government and responding to civil investigative demands and broad investigative subpoenas. In addition, Angela regularly assists companies in conducting sensitive internal investigations. In the civil arena, Angela has

represented businesses and individuals accused of negligence in hiring, Lanham Act and civil RICO claims as well as breach of fiduciary duty, usurpation of corporate opportunity, and fraud claims.

Angela was formerly managing partner of a white collar and litigation boutique law firm in Los Angeles. She currently serves on the board of directors for Teach Democracy (formerly the Constitutional Rights Foundation) and is a member of the governor's Judicial Selection Advisory Committee for Los Angeles County. She is also active in the Los Angeles County Bar Association (LACBA), serving for many years on both the Judicial Appointments Committee (including for two years as the committee's Vice Chair) and the Litigation Section Executive Committee (including one year as its Chair). Angela has spoken as a panelist at both the ABA White Collar Crime National Institute and the NACDL West Coast White Collar Seminar. After graduating from Yale Law School in 2001, she clerked for the Honorable Nora M. Manella in the Central District of California, as well as the Honorable Pamela Ann Rymer in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Angela is a member of Winston's Opportunity & Inclusion Committee, is active in the Latino(a) Lawyer Alliance at Winston, and was a member of the Latinx Law Students Association at Yale Law School.

Key Matters

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

- **Theft of Trade Secrets.** Helped secure a rare post-indictment dismissal of all criminal charges against client in closely watched theft of trade secrets case in the Northern District of California.
- **Healthcare.** Obtained a dismissal from the California Attorney General's Office on the eve of trial of all charges against a registered nurse related to allegations of abuse of a dependent adult at a skilled nursing facility. Represented several executives of a major health plan in a state criminal investigation relating to Medi-Cal payments, and obtained across-the-board declinations. Successfully represented executives of a leading bio-tech company in investigations related to False Claims Act and off-label drug promotion.
- **Environmental.** Co-led the successful defense of a Fortune 300 company being investigated for alleged criminal violations of the Clean Water Act and obtained a non-prosecution agreement. Represented an energy company in an investigation by the EPA into alleged releases of toxins following an industrial accident.
- **FIRREA.** Obtained a declination in the representation of a high-level bank officer in a federal investigation involving potential violations of the Bank Secrecy Act and FIRREA. Also successfully represented a former senior officer of a subprime mortgage lender in a FIRREA investigation.
- **Insider Trading.** Obtained a declination from the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Southern District of New York and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on behalf of a designated target in an insider trading investigation. Successfully represented a film executive in an SEC insider trading investigation.
- **Antitrust.** Represented executives in after-market auto parts and high-tech industries investigated for criminal price-fixing, resulting in no charges against her clients.
- **FCPA.** Represented several high-ranking employees of a high-tech manufacturer in an FCPA investigation led by the SEC.
- **Defense Contractor Fraud.** Represented an accomplished scientist in a federal criminal investigation related to contracts with the Department of Interior, negotiating a favorable sentence.
- **Internal Investigations.** Conducted an investigation for a Fortune 50 company related to allegations of criminal export control violations. Conducted multiple internal investigations for a major health care provider, a utility company, and a film studio related to allegations of kickbacks and other corporate impropriety.
- **Trials.** Represented the owner of a wholesale apparel company in a 6-week criminal trial in the Central District of California involving allegations of customs fraud, tax fraud, and money laundering.

Recognitions

- *Lawdragon*—Recognized as one of the “100 Managing Partners You Need to Know” (2025); “500 Leading Global Litigators” for Global Litigation & Investigations (esp. White Collar) (2024); “500 Leading Lawyers in America” for Government Regulatory and Investigations; and “500 Leading Litigators in America” for White Collar, Commercial Litigation, Investigations, and SEC Enforcement (2024–2025)
 - *The Best Lawyers in America*®—Recognized for White Collar Criminal Defense (2022–2025)
 - *Super Lawyers Magazine*—Recognized as a “Rising Star” (2013–2015) and a Southern California *Super Lawyer* (2016–2025)
 - *Legal 500 US*—Recognized for Dispute Resolution: Corporate and White-Collar Criminal Defense (2023–2024)
 - *Los Angeles Business Journal*—Named to the “Women of Influence: Attorneys” list (2022–2023)
 - *Who’s Who Legal*—Recognized as a “Global Leader” for Investigations - Future Leader (2022)
 - *Los Angeles Magazine*—Honored as one of Southern California Rising Stars’ “Top 50 Up-and-Coming Women Lawyers” (June 2015)
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Activities

Angela currently serves on the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee for Teach Democracy (formerly known as the Constitutional Rights Foundation). She is a member of the governor’s Judicial Selection Advisory Committee for Los Angeles County. She is also active in the Los Angeles County Bar Association (LACBA). She served on the Judicial Appointments Committee for LACBA from 2011 to 2020, including for two years as the committee’s Vice Chair. She also served on LACBA’s Litigation Section Executive Committee from 2011 to 2019, including one year as its Chair. In addition, she is a member of the Women’s White Collar Defense Association (WWCDA) and a member of Winston’s Opportunity & Inclusion Committee.

Angela has spoken as a panelist at both the ABA White Collar Crime National Institute and the NACDL West Coast White Collar Seminar.

Credentials

EDUCATION

Angela received her B.A. in Political Science, *summa cum laude*, from UCLA in 1997. She received her J.D. from Yale Law School in 2001.

After graduating from law school, Angela served as a law clerk for the Honorable Nora M. Manella in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, and for the Honorable Pamela Ann Rymer in the U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit.

ADMISSIONS

- California

CLERKSHIPS

- USCA - Ninth Circuit for the Honorable Pamela Ann Rymer
- USDC - Central District of CA for the Honorable Nora M. Manella

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- USDC - Central District of CA for the Honorable Nora M. Manella

Related Insights & News

PUBLICATIONS

- “Personal Benefit & Insider Trading,” *The Los Angeles Daily Journal*, Feb. 26, 2016
- Insider Trading: Theories of Liability, Common Defenses, and Recent Cases, *The State Bar of California's Big News for Solo & Small Firms*, Vol. 20, Issue 2, Spring 2014
- “Whistleblower Cases: Turning the Tables,” *The National Law Journal*, Co-author, Nov. 12, 2007

RECOGNITIONS

Angela Machala Named to *Los Angeles Business Journal's* 2025 Top 100 Lawyers List

MAY 5, 2025

RECOGNITIONS

Winston Partners Featured on the 2025 *Lawdragon* 100 Managing Partners You Need to Know List

APRIL 4, 2025

PRESS RELEASE

Winston & Strawn Adds Transactions Partner Stanislav Kalminsky in Los Angeles

MARCH 31, 2025

RECOGNITIONS

Winston Attorneys Featured on the 2025 *Lawdragon* 500 Leading Lawyers in America List

JANUARY 14, 2025

RECOGNITIONS

Winston Attorneys Featured on the 2025 *Lawdragon* 500 Leading Litigators in America List

SEPTEMBER 6, 2024

RECOGNITIONS

Winston Attorneys Recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2025

AUGUST 15, 2024

BLOG

Angela Machala & Sylvia James Join 100+ Law Firm & Inhouse Leaders to Tackle Equity & Inclusion Challenges

JULY 25, 2024

RECOGNITIONS

Winston Lawyers Featured on the 2024 *Lawdragon* 500 Leading Global Litigators List
JULY 25, 2024

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Recognized in *The Legal 500 U.S.* 2024
JUNE 12, 2024

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Wins Three Law360 Practice Group of the Year Awards
JANUARY 22, 2024

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Named Among *Global Investigations Review's* 2023 GIR 100
DECEMBER 5, 2023

PRESS RELEASE

Winston & Strawn Welcomes Tax Attorney Jennifer Morgan Back to Firm's Los Angeles Office as Partner
DECEMBER 4, 2023

Capabilities

Government Investigations, Enforcement & Compliance	Commercial Litigation & Disputes	
Government Program Fraud, False Claims Act & Qui Tam Litigation	Crisis Management	
Financial Services	Medical Devices	Professional Services