



Jack Knight

Partner
Chair, Financial Services Litigation Practice

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Jack is nationally recognized as a leading white collar defense attorney and represents corporations and individuals in high-stakes investigations. He is listed in Band 1 of the white collar law category in *Chambers USA*, is routinely recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*[®], has been named to the *North Carolina Super Lawyers* list for many years, and was named to *NC Business Magazine's* 2017 Lawyers of the Year. He was also named as the High Stakes Investigations Lawyer of the Year in North Carolina for 2024.

Jack focuses his practice on white collar criminal defense, internal investigations, regulatory enforcement actions, grand jury investigations, and financial services matters. As part of his practice, he regularly represents Fortune 500 companies, financial institutions, and individuals in complex white collar criminal defense and securities enforcement matters. He routinely handles high-profile white collar matters involving the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, State Attorneys General, Internal Revenue Service, and other federal and state enforcement agencies. Jack currently chairs Winston & Strawn's Financial Services Litigation Practice.

From 2000 to 2005, Jack worked for the DOJ as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Western District of North Carolina, where he handled all types of white collar prosecutions, including complex financial services cases.

Jack is a permanent member of the Fourth Circuit Judicial Conference and has tried more than 50 cases to verdict in state and federal court.

Jack has conducted numerous high-profile trials, including the largest public corruption case in North Carolina history which was covered extensively by the national media. As a prosecutor, Jack served on the prosecution team that tried the nationally televised trial of NFL player and then Carolina Panther, Rae Carruth.

Key Matters

- Represented a large financial institution in a high-profile investigation conducted by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and National Futures Association related to the foreign exchange market. Conducted a wide ranging internal investigation and responded to parallel criminal and civil investigations by the DOJ and numerous other regulatory entities. The matter received significant media coverage.
- Defended an individual in the largest public corruption trial in North Carolina history. The DOJ investigation and trial were covered extensively by the media.
- Successfully represented senior corporate executives in a high-profile securities investigation related to the manipulation of corporate earnings conducted by the SEC and DOJ, which resulted in no charges being filed against the executives.
- Represented a large financial institution in relation to a DOJ and Internal Revenue Service investigation involving tax credits. After an extensive investigation that lasted several years, no charges were filed.
- Represented a commodities trader in large scale DOJ investigation. After several preliminary hearings, the investigation resulted in no charges being filed.
- Defended the general counsel of a national mortgage company investigated by the DOJ and State Attorneys General. No charges were ever filed.
- Conducted a large internal investigation of a national financial institution regarding whistleblower allegations of accounting fraud.
- Routinely represented national financial institutions in False Claims Act *qui tam*.
- Conducted an internal investigation and defended a major power and electric company during a federal environmental grand jury investigation which resulted in no charges against the company or its employees.
- Defended an individual in one of the largest antitrust cases ever brought by the Antitrust Division of DOJ.
- Represented numerous individuals in DOJ healthcare fraud matters.
- Defended one of the country's largest construction firms during a federal investigation related to allegations of political kickbacks and fraud. No charges were brought against the company or any individuals.
- Represented the speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives during a public corruption investigation.
- Defended corporations and individuals in investigations conducted by the Environmental Crimes Section of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Recognitions

Jack has been listed for ten years in Band 1 of *Chambers USA* as a leader in the field of white collar law. The publication describes him as a “sharp lawyer” who is “extremely knowledgeable and accessible” and a “go-to guy.” Jack is listed in *U.S. News and World Report* and *Corporate Counsel* magazine and has been recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*® since 2010 for Criminal Defense: White Collar and since 2018 for Litigation: Banking and Finance. He was recognized in *Lawdragon’s* “500 Leading Litigators in America” in White Collar, Criminal Defense, and Investigations in 2023 and 2024. Jack was also named to the *North Carolina Super Lawyers* list for many years and named to *NC Business Magazine’s* 2017 Lawyers of the Year. In 2018, he was inducted into the North Carolina Supreme Court Pro Bono Honor Society. Jack has also been recognized in *The Legal 500 US* from 2022–2023.

Activities

Jack regularly provides free legal services for Charlotte area homeless shelter residents, and he was inducted into the North Carolina Pro Bono Honor Society for his work. He is the past president of the Mecklenburg County Bar Criminal Justice Section and was also selected to be a member of the Local Rules Committee of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of North Carolina.

Additionally, he has also been an instructor at the U.S. Department of Justice’s National Advocacy Center, which is used to train Assistant United States Attorneys.

Credentials

EDUCATION

Jack received a J.D., *cum laude*, from The Washington College of Law at American University in Washington, D.C. in 1994. He served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina from 2000–2004. He received a B.A. in political science in 1990 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he was a Jody Akers Scholar.

ADMISSIONS

- North Carolina

Related Insights & News

Jack frequently writes and speaks about the legal issues affecting his practice.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- [“Come See Us Before We Come See You – DOJ Announces New Whistleblower Program Intensifying Corporate Enforcement Efforts,”](#) Investigations, Enforcement, & Compliance Alerts, Co-author, March 14, 2024
- [“Tips to Follow DOJ Guidance and Survive Corporate Investigations,”](#) Bloomberg Law, Co-author, Jan. 6, 2023
- [“How to Navigate DOJ’s Update on Corporate Criminal Enforcement,”](#) Bloomberg Law, Co-author, Oct. 26, 2022
- [“Do More and Move Faster – The DOJ Announces Significant Policy Changes to Prioritize Corporate Criminal Prosecutions,”](#) Investigations, Enforcement, & Compliance Alerts, Co-author, Sept. 20, 2022

- “Appeals Court Overturns Bribery Conviction of Insurance Entrepreneur,” *The Wall Street Journal*, Quoted, Jun. 29, 2022
- “The Department of Justice Takes a More Aggressive Approach to the Investigation and Prosecution of Companies,” Co-author, Dec. 15, 2021
- “DOJ Announces Major Changes in Corporate Enforcement Policies,” Co-author, Oct. 28, 2021
- “Abuse of Discovery Prompts U.S. Reform,” *Charlotte Business Journal*, Author, Apr. 16, 2010
- “Internal Investigations: When the Government Comes Calling,” *The Banking Law Journal*, Co-author, Oct. 2007

RECENT SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- “Government Investigations: How to Respond and Manage Efficiently” Mecklenburg County Bar White Collar Section, Presenter, Jun. 1, 2023
- “Financial Services Regulatory and Enforcement Outlook for 2023,” Presenter, Jan. 26, 2023
- “Should Companies be Concerned about the New Guidance from the DOJ for Prosecuting Corporate Crime?” Presentation to the Association of Corporate Counsel, Presenter, Feb. 15, 2022
- “The Biden Administration Turns One - Should Companies Be Concerned about the New Guidance from the DOJ for Prosecuting Corporate Crime?” Presenter, Jan. 26, 2022
- “What to expect from the Department of Justice During the first 100 days for the Biden Administration,” Podcast Presenter, Nov. 16, 2021
- “The Vanishing Trial: A View From the Bench,” Panel discussion with three current judges regarding the potential trend of fewer trials and how that impacts corporate America, the legal system, and the judicial system, Moderator, Jul. 21, 2016
- Internal Investigations Presentation, Securities Fraud Conference, Panelist, Jun. 13, 2013
- “Securities Litigation in 2012 and Beyond: New Targets, New Solutions,” Presenter, May 9, 2012
- “From Enron to Today – An Insider’s Guide to Safely Navigating the New Enforcement Landscape,” Presentation to in-house counsel at financial institutions, Presenter, Oct. 20, 2011
- “What to Do When Federal Investigators Come Calling,” Presentation for corporate in-house counsel of Fortune 500 company, Presenter, Oct. 12, 2011
- Assistant U.S. Attorneys at the National Advocacy Center (NAC) on issues related to recent prosecutions throughout the country, Instructor, Jun. 14, 2011
- “The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act,” Presentation to risk management group at a Fortune 25 financial services institution, Presenter, Dec. 8, 2010
- “The Criminal Trial – the Art of Cross Examination,” Presented in Charlotte, N.C. at a national business institute, Presenter, 2008
- “Carolina Business Journal,” Television Guest
- “Mike Collins,” Radio Show Guest
- International Association of Police Chiefs (IAPC), Toronto, Canada

BLOG

Come See Us Before We Come See You – DOJ Announces New Whistleblower Program Intensifying Corporate Enforcement Efforts

MARCH 14, 2024

SEMINAR/CLE

Winston Hosts 2024 Financial Services Symposium in Charlotte

JANUARY 24, 2024

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Partners Recognized in 2024 *Lawdragon* 500 Leading Litigators in America

SEPTEMBER 8, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

Winston Attorneys Recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2024

AUGUST 17, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Recognized in *The Legal 500 U.S.* 2023

JUNE 7, 2023

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Recognized in *Chambers USA* 2023

JUNE 6, 2023

ARTICLE

DOJ's Changes to Corporate Enforcement Policy Present Obstacles

FEBRUARY 1, 2023

SEMINAR/CLE

Financial Services Regulatory and Enforcement Outlook for 2023 and Beyond

JANUARY 26, 2023

ARTICLE

Tips to Follow DOJ Guidance and Survive Corporate Investigations

JANUARY 6, 2023

ARTICLE

How to Navigate DOJ's Update on Corporate Criminal Enforcement

OCTOBER 27, 2022

BLOG

Winston's Charlotte Office Provides Pro Bono Services to Vulnerable Community Members

OCTOBER 12, 2022

RECOGNITIONS

Winston & Strawn Partners Recognized in 2023 *Lawdragon* 500 Leading Litigators in America

OCTOBER 5, 2022

Capabilities

Government Investigations, Enforcement & Compliance

Compliance Programs

Government Program Fraud, False Claims Act & Qui Tam Litigation

Financial Services

Insurance

Financial Crimes Compliance