
Cross-Border Investigations and Compliance

Representing clients in sensitive inquiries across jurisdictions.

Fortune 500 companies, corporate executives and public figures rely on WilmerHale's experience to counsel them through cross-border investigations, as well as related criminal litigation and civil and administrative enforcement proceedings. We know how to conduct and defend investigations and are particularly sensitive to working across jurisdictions and with local counsel. We understand how to pay appropriate attention to the secondary risks that must be managed during cross-border inquiries, such as data privacy, preservation and protection, crisis management and media relations, communications with multiple law enforcement and regulatory authorities, interactions with auditors, and corporate governance.

In the past two years, our investigations teams have spent more than 200,000 hours working on matters involving more than 75 countries. The issues on which we have worked have spanned criminal, civil and regulatory concerns relating to cartel and competition issues, potential corruption, money laundering, fraud, cyber breaches, code of conduct and compliance violations, whistleblower complaints, export/import regulations, sanctions violations, multilateral developmental bank corruption inquiries, non-immigrant visa fraud investigations, regulatory infractions, and many other legal and regulatory issues.

We bring years of experience to managing cross-border inquiries. Since 2015, more than 60 of our lawyers have led cross-border matters that have involved more than 300 of our lawyers. Our partnership includes not only tens of lawyers experienced with handling sensitive matters around the world while in private practice, but many lawyers with extensive government experience working on transnational issues. Among others, our partners include two former Deputy Attorneys General, four former US Attorneys, the former Deputy Director of the CIA, the former Undersecretary of Treasury for Intelligence and Terrorist Finance, the former General Counsels of the CIA, FBI, and Department of Defense, and many others.

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Related Solutions

AML and Economic Sanctions
Compliance and Enforcement

Business and Financial
Integrity

Investigations

State Attorneys General

Crisis Management and
Strategic Response

Foreign Corrupt Practices Act
and Anti-Corruption

Securities Enforcement

Cybersecurity and Privacy

Government Contract
Investigations

Securities Litigation

Experience

CARTEL INVESTIGATION

Representing Japanese auto parts manufacturer DENSO and its US subsidiary in the largest criminal antitrust investigation ever and in the companion civil class action litigation. We secured a favorable settlement—including securing the largest ever reduction in criminal fine—on behalf of DENSO with the DOJ.

SECURITIES TRADING INTERNAL INVESTIGATION AND DEFENSE IN US AND UK PROCEEDINGS

Represented JPMorgan in connection with US and British government investigations arising out of the “London Whale” trading incident. We assisted with the issuance of JPMorgan’s Management Task Force Report and participated in settlement discussions with regulators across jurisdictions.

INTERNAL GOVERNANCE INVESTIGATIONS

Represented board of a US confectionary products producer in investigation concerning failed acquisition of a Chinese confectionary brand. Following completion of our investigation, we worked with Board committees and senior management to review and enhance governance practices.

INTERNAL INVESTIGATION OF CROSS-BORDER SECURITIES TRANSACTIONS

Conducting internal inquiry at a leading investment bank relating to transnational transactions conducted through the bank’s London and Tokyo branches, under the shadow of parallel Japanese, UK, and US law enforcement and regulatory inquiries.

MULTI-NATIONAL SALES PRACTICES

Investigating the foreign sales operations of a German subsidiary of a US multinational

company with regard to payments to agents and consultants in Eastern Europe, Russia and other Commonwealth of Independent States countries.

INTERNAL REVIEW OF AML, SARS, AND FINANCIAL CONTROLS

Led internal investigations for financial services client into matters concerning AML compliance programs, suspicious activity reporting, employee misconduct and accountability, and transaction monitoring systems.

MULTI-NATIONAL TAX INVESTIGATION

Representing a global banking and financial services organization in Switzerland, Monaco, Hong Kong and Singapore in connection with allegations of US tax fraud.

LEAK INVESTIGATION

Investigating a possible board leak of a strategic merger plan which, as a result of the leak, had to be abandoned; the investigation covered the company concerned and legal and investment banking advisors.

INTERNAL REVIEW OF MANAGEMENT CONDUCT

Internal review and resolution of threatened litigation arising from allegation that senior corporate officer had harassed and assaulted a senior executive in jurisdictions throughout Europe and the Middle East.

ABUSE OF US VISA RULES

Represented Indian tech outsourcing company in federal criminal and administrative investigations by the DOJ, Department of State and Department of Homeland Security, as well as in a congressional inquiry, and provided internal investigation and regulatory advice regarding alleged immigration and tax violations.

FIFA CORRUPTION PROCEEDINGS

Representing a Fortune 100 client in connection with the ongoing investigation by the Eastern District of New York involving FIFA and continental soccer organizations and officials, international sports marketing firms and other unnamed co-conspirators.

COMPLIANCE REVIEW OF TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

Investigating civil and criminal liability of former members of management boards of one of Europe's leading truck manufacturers and transport-related engineering groups and its affiliates; completing compliance review of its foreign subsidiary.

WHISTLEBLOWER ALLEGATIONS

Conducted an internal investigation and defense of UK-based financial services entity in US proceedings following whistleblower allegations of accounting and asset valuation fraud.

MULTI-DEVELOPMENTAL BANK PROCEEDINGS

Represented Fortune 50 global manufacturer in multilateral development bank investigations into potential corruption by manufacturer's distributors and affiliates in association with foreign government contracts in Latin America and Africa.

Recognition

- *Global Investigations Review* – Named WilmerHale the winner of the 2022 “Most Impressive Investigations Practice of the Year” and a finalist in its 2021 “Most Impressive Investigations Practice of the Year,” “Most Important Court Case of the Year” and “Most Important Development of the Year” contests. Since 2015, the firm has been ranked at the top of *GIR*’s list of the world’s most accomplished investigations practices. *GIR* also gave WilmerHale a 2016 nod as “Most Impressive Investigations Practice of the Year” for its cross-border work in both high-profile internal and government-led investigations.
- *Global Investigations Review Just Anti-Corruption* – Gave WilmerHale’s Washington DC office an “elite” ranking for its Foreign Corrupt Practices Act Practice, placing the firm among the top in the nation’s capital.