
UK White Collar Defense and Investigations

Multinational companies, corporate executives, high-ranking public officials and in-house counsel rely on our preeminent practice and depth of experience when facing complex and challenging criminal and regulatory investigations.

Our UK White Collar Defense and Investigations lawyers advise on all aspects of criminal and regulatory investigations, working across jurisdictions on white collar crime matters such as fraud, insider dealing, market abuse, bribery and corruption, cartel defence, and corporate investigations. We counsel clients through investigations by a wide range of agencies and prosecution authorities, including the Serious Fraud Office (SFO), the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), the National Crime Agency (NCA), the police and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), as well as overseas agencies such as the US Department of Justice (DOJ) and Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

The UK group is headed by Stephen Pollard, a highly experienced practitioner who is widely recognised as one of the leading white-collar defence lawyers in the UK. Mr. Pollard and his team have particular experience in the defence of financial services fraud, multi-jurisdictional white collar crime allegations, corruption allegations, criminal cartel allegations and sanctions/export control work. The UK team works closely with colleagues in the United States and Europe to provide a seamless global service. The group also has experience in conducting internal corporate investigations on behalf of companies that suspect employee misconduct or where there is a risk of exposure to a formal criminal or regulatory investigation.

The team's insight and analysis on all aspects of UK white collar, investigations and regulatory enforcement can be seen on the WilmerHale W.I.R.E. UK blog and on Twitter @WHWhiteCollarUK.

Key Contacts



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Related Solutions

Investigations

United Kingdom

Financial Services

Securities Enforcement

Securities Litigation

Foreign Corrupt Practices Act
and Anti-Corruption

White Collar Defense and
Investigations

Antitrust and Competition

Experience

The team is currently instructed on most of the significant SFO and FCA matters, including the investigations into manipulation of benchmarks (Libor and FX), Barclays (payments to Qatar), Alstom (alleged corruption), Serco (alleged overcharging), ENRC (alleged corruption), Rio Tinto (alleged corruption) and a member of the separate investigations connected to corruption investigation into Unaoil.

Recognition



Ranked for Outstanding Work and Reputation: Financial Crime

Chambers UK

2018-2024



Ranked No. 1 Top Investigations Practice

Global Investigations Review (GIR) 30

2017



Commended in Best Law Firms Guide

The Times

2019-2020

- *Chambers UK: A Client's Guide to the UK Legal Profession* – WilmerHale is ranked for Financial Crime: Corporates and Financial Crime: Individuals in the 2018–2024 editions of the guide, with clients saying the firm is “renowned” and has “considerable experience [with] white-collar crime matters, including SFO work.” Clients say they are “dedicated, close to the customer and very professional.”
- *Chambers UK: A Client's Guide to the UK Legal Profession* – WilmerHale is ranked for Financial Services: Contentious Regulatory in the 2020–2024 editions of the guide.
- Commended in *The Times* ‘Best Law Firms’ guide 2019 and 2020 for financial crime, fraud and regulatory.
- *The Legal 500 UK* – In the 2018–2022 editions, WilmerHale is ranked for Fraud: White-Collar Crime; Regulatory Investigations and Corporate Crime; and Financial Services, Contentious.
- *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.
- *Chambers Global* – WilmerHale is ranked in the 2016 edition for corporate investigations and corporate investigations: anti-corruption.

- *Law360* – Ranked WilmerHale number six in its 2015 Securities/White Collar Practice Group Partner rankings, which recognize the 100 largest and most powerful securities and white-collar practices.
- *The Lawyer* – Ranked WilmerHale among the top 10 litigation practices in the world in the 2013 list of the Global Litigation Top 50.