Most Influential Lawyers: White Collar and Cyber Crime

As the business landscape evolves in new directions and companies are faced with new variables - such as combating white collar crime and cyber issues, along with trends come new regulations and legislation. Having the right attorney that specializes in these elements that weigh so heavily on the well being of your business can be one of the most crucial decisions you and your organization make. A seasoned lawyer can walk a business through white collar crime and cyber challenges and help point your organization in the direction of the best and safest possible results. Fortunately, there are some stellar attorneys in Los Angeles. We've listed some of the best of them here, along with some basic information about their careers, practice and some relevant recent successes they've achieved.

Congratulations to the attorneys who made this list and thank you for working to keep our local businesses on the right track!

Raymond O. Aghaian
Partner
Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton

Ray Aghaian is an experienced trial lawyer and former federal prosecutor focusing his practice on white collar criminal defense, cybersecurity and corporate internal investigations. As a former federal white collar crimes prosecutor with the United States Attorney's Office in Los Angeles, he served in a specialized unit prosecuting cyber and intellectual property crimes.

In the cybersecurity arena, Aghaian advises clients in assessing and securing their computer systems, mitigating the risk of liability, ensuring compliance with cybersecurity standards, responding to cyber attacks and data breaches, and complying with mandatory disclosure and notification requirements after a data breach. As a response to cyber attacks, his recent work has limited the scope of review of defense contractors' computer networks by the FBI and Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) to nonproprietary files and malicious code implanted in the computer networks. Aghaian has also represented numerous companies and corporate executives in a variety of internal investigations and white collar defense matters involving: bribery, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), procurement fraud relating to government contractors, the False Claims Act, ITAR and related export control violations, the Lacey Act, and misbranded and adulterated drugs in violation of FDA regulations, embezzlement and other related fraud under the federal mail and wire fraud statutes.

Douglas Axel
Partner
Sidley Austin LLP

Doug Axel started as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Central District of California in 2001 and rose to the position of Chief of that office's Major Frauds Section in 2007. As Chief, Axel supervised 40 lawyers who investigated and prosecuted a wide range of business and other white collar crimes, including corporate fraud, healthcare fraud, securities and investment fraud, financial fraud, government procurement fraud, tax fraud and public corruption offenses.

While at the U.S. Attorney's office, Axel personally prosecuted dozens of criminal white collar cases. In 2009, Axel received an Attorney General's Award for Fraud Prevention, one of the Department of Justice's highest honors. Axel joined Sidley Austin's Los Angeles office as a partner in 2010 and has been one of the state's most prominent white collar defense lawyers ever since. His practice focuses on white collar criminal defense, government enforcement matters, internal investigations and complex commercial litigation. As government regulation of corporations in a wide range of sectors increases, Axel has established himself as one of California's leading lawyers guiding clients through complex investigative and compliance issues. At the same time, as the number of False Claims Act cases rises, he is one of the top lawyers defending companies against such cases throughout the country.

Ronald Cheng
Partner
O'Melveny & Myers LLP

Ronald Cheng began his career in the early 1990s as an O'Melveny associate and then spent 20 years as a federal prosecutor, serving in a number of roles at the Department of Justice including: chief of the Criminal Appeals Section of the US Attorney's Office; resident legal advisor to the US Embassy in Beijing; and acting chief and deputy chief of the Criminal Division of the US Attorney's Office. Most recently Cheng has been a key member of the Cybercrime and Intellectual Property Crimes Section at the US Attorney's Office for the Central District of California, where he has focused on criminal activity arising out of the Asia-Pacific region. He is now a partner in O’Melveny’s White Collar Defense and Corporate Investigations Practice.

One of the very few Mandarin-speaking attorneys experienced in both US and Chinese criminal law enforcement, Cheng argued more than 35 cases before the Ninth Circuit, including two en banc, and serving as lead counsel or co-lead counsel in roughly 20 federal felony jury trials. Among other notable trials, Cheng handled the case of United States v. Xu, a three-month racketeering, money laundering, and immigration fraud trial against former Bank of China managers for perpetrating a $500 million embezzlement scheme against the Bank in China and fleeing to the United States.
Bryan D. Daly
Partner & Co-Chair, Contracts/Investigations & International Trade Practice Group Leader
Sheppard Mullin

Bryan Daly is a former Assistant United States Attorney for the Central District of California, Criminal Division, Public Corruption and Government Fraud Section. As a federal prosecutor, Daly was responsible for the investigation and prosecution of a wide variety of fraud and whistleblower cases. In private practice, Daly has tried numerous criminal and complex civil cases in federal and state courts including those for businesses and executives under investigation or charged with white collar criminal offenses, including the defense of companies and executives accused of FCPA violations. He has also conducted more than 100 internal investigations and compliance inquiries for a number of major corporations. In this capacity, Daly has worked closely with management to create effective training and compliance programs for employees and has also investigated fraud and other allegations of misconduct on behalf of these companies, and has coordinated voluntary disclosures and case referrals to the Department of Justice and other impacted agencies where appropriate. Many of these matters have been in response to whistleblowers’ allegations and False Claims Act complaints. Specifically, Daly has investigated and defended dozens of whistleblower suits brought against Northrop Grumman Corporation, Hughes Aircraft Company, Raytheon Corporation, Duke Electric Corporation, and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

Michael Farhang
Partner
Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP

Michael Farhang, a former federal prosecutor, represents a variety of corporate and individual clients in white collar criminal, securities, and general business litigation matters. He has significant trial experience in both government and private practice, and has substantial experience with internal investigations on behalf of large corporate clients, as well as representations in the context of government investigations (including U.S. Department of Justice and Securities and Exchange Commission investigations) and voluntary disclosures. Farhang has handled representations related to insider trading, securities fraud, Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), health care and Medicare fraud, mail and wire fraud, and other criminal and regulatory issues. He also has specialized expertise in the investigation and prosecution of claims of fraud in the context of company acquisitions, and has extensive experience handling civil securities and shareholder derivative litigation matters.

Charles L. Kreindler
Partner & White Collar & Corporate Crimes Practice Leader
Sheppard Mullin

Charles Kreindler is a partner in Sheppard Mullin’s Government Contract and Investigations group where he is the Leader of the White Collar Criminal Defense Team. That team consists of more than a dozen former federal and state prosecutors who are resident in offices throughout the U.S. Kreindler has 30 years of experience in White Collar Criminal law and defense, including 8 years as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Central District of California.

Benjamin N. Gluck
Principal
Bird Marella PC

Benjamin Gluck has been with Bird Marella since 1999, and has had a substantial impact in its white collar criminal defense practice, focusing particularly in his specialty area of health care litigation, where he represents health care providers in state and federal criminal matters. His experience in the areas of grey-market medications and devices, physician-owned distributorships, and unlicensed practice relating to health care providers has made him second to none in this area, and has proven to not only be an influential lawyer to the principals and associates at Bird Marella, but also among his peers and colleagues at many law firms across the nation.

Lately, more and more health care fraud cases are being prosecuted in state, rather than federal court. Gluck has “made law” recently in several such cases, especially with respect to the procedural issues that arise from the attempted prosecution of complex alleged fraud schemes. Recent victories in just the past few months include the sustaining of a demurrer in a Riverside County case on the grounds that the People were taking improper charging shortcuts when presenting such cases. The Riverside County District Attorney has appealed, which means that Gluck’s work is likely to establish sorely needed precedent in this area.

Brian Hershman
Partner
Jones Day

Brian Hershman specializes in white collar fraud and public corruption. Prior to joining Jones Day, Mr. Hershman was the Deputy Chief of the Public Corruption and Civil Rights section of the United States Attorney’s Office for the Central District of California, where he received the Director’s Award for Superior Performance.

He represents the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, former Sheriffs Lee Baca and top LASD management in connection with a high profile criminal and civil investigation by the Los Angeles United States Attorney’s Office and the Department of Justice into allegations of obstruction of justice and excessive use of force in the county jails. Between 2011 and the present, Hershman has worked with the Board, LASD Supervisors, former Sheriff Lee Baca and top LASD management in connection with a high profile criminal and civil investigation by the Los Angeles United States Attorney’s Office and the Department of Justice into allegations of obstruction of justice and excessive use of force in the county jails. Between 2011 and the present, Hershman has worked with the Board, LASD Supervisors, former Sheriff Lee Baca and top LASD management in connection with a high profile criminal and civil investigation by the Los Angeles United States Attorney’s Office and the Department of Justice into allegations of obstruction of justice and excessive use of force in the county jails.

In that capacity, Hershman has facilitated the production of hundreds of thousands of documents to the U.SAO, and has coordinated the interviews and grand jury appearances of numerous LASD employees.

Charles Kreindler continues to be highly sought after by companies and individuals suspected or accused of a wide variety of federal crimes. Kreindler’s most significant recent engagement was on behalf of Exide Technologies, Inc., one of the world’s largest producers and distributors of batteries. In August 2014, the federal government began a criminal investigation of Exide with respect to its treatment and storage of hazardous waste at its Vernon recycling plant. In March 2015, after months of investigation and negotiation, Kreindler and his partner Bryan Daly were able to secure a non-prosecution agreement (NPA) with the government covering the company and its officers and employees. This was the first and only NPA ever given by the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Central District of California involving environmental crimes.

Stephen Larson
Partner & Chair of the Complex Litigation Practice Group
Arent Fox LLP

Litigation strategist. Rainmaker. Leader. Those are just three of the traits that make Stephen Larson, the only former federal judge actively practicing litigation in Los Angeles, stand out in the city’s legal field. Larson has enjoyed a rapid rise at Arent Fox. In just four years he has developed his own highly-regarded white collar practice while also leading the firm’s national litigation practice and spearheading its growth with the addition of high profile white collar partners in Los Angeles, New York, and Washington, DC.

With over 26 years of combined litigation experience as a prosecutor, federal judge, and private practitioner, Larson brings his unique background and his broad perspective to bear on the most sophisticated white collar matters with remarkable results. Recently, he has successfully handled and fully resolved a wide-range of white collar matters involving (1) an OIG investigation within the Los Angeles Unified School District; (2) a joint federal and state False Claims Act case against a major municipality; (3) an FPPC complaint against a California state commissioner; (4) an internal investigation involving one of the state’s largest pension fund associations; and (5) a District Attorney’s investigation of an entire sitting City Council.
Scott Lesowitz
Trial Attorney
Raines Feldman LLP

Scott Lesowitz is an experienced trial attorney with a strong background in civil and criminal litigation. He graduated from Harvard Law School cum laude and has spent roughly half of his career working as a federal prosecutor and half of his career in private practice. While at the U.S. Attorney’s Office, he tried ten felony jury trials, wrote 12 appellate briefs, argued four cases in front of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and headed investigations into crimes including wire fraud, check fraud, illegal employment practices, and RICO. He currently works for the prestigious boutique law firm of Raines Feldman LLP.

Recently, Lesowitz has assisted witnesses and potential targets of criminal or regulatory investigations navigate the often emotional experience of providing materials and information to law enforcement. He has also counseled on deciding whether and how to cooperate with law enforcement. And he has helped in plea agreement negotiations. He has also used his criminal law experience in representing plaintiffs in civil cases with a criminal flavor, such as plaintiffs suing for violations of the RICO statute, fraud, theft of trade secrets, and the California Penal Code’s theft statute. Recently, he has also brought his experience in computer programming to his intellectual property practice.

Janet Levine
Partner
Crowell & Moring LLP

Janet Levine is globally known for her successful and creative advocacy on behalf of clients in government investigations and at trial. A top-notch trial lawyer who specializes in white collar crime, she is the chair of Crowell & Moring LLP’s firm-wide Trial Practice Group. For more than 30 years, Levine has successfully defended publicly traded and privately held companies and their officers and directors against government claims of wrongdoing. She has represented government entities, licensed professionals, politicians, and judges in investigations and at trial. Her results speak for themselves: high stakes, high visibility matters handled deftly and discreetly and, when necessary, resolved or tried favorably.

The headline-making matters Levine is involved in handling in the last eighteen months are both high profile and high-stakes. Her clients include a former executive in a highly-publicized state and federal investigation of a publicly-traded entity; the owner-operator of a major government laboratory in an internal investigation; a government entity with regard to counseling on conflict of interest issues with criminal implications; and one of the largest suppliers and distributors of food products to the U.S. government with regard to civil and criminal investigations. Levine also made history as one of only a few lawyers to ever try (and win dismissal of) a Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) case.

John F. Libby
Co-Chair, Corporate Investigations & White Collar Defense
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips LLP

Manatt Corporate Investigations and White Collar Defense Co-Chair John Libby has a proven track record of success in defending business entities in high-stakes criminal investigations and prosecutions. Having served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Los Angeles, he is a greatly experienced trial lawyer who is uniquely positioned to advise and represent clients in litigating complex disputes with the government and private parties through trial and appeal if necessary, including, in particular, False Claims Act cases that often straddle the civil and criminal arenas.

Libby is extremely skilled at resolving matters without indictment, inquiry or enforcement action, and as a result, many of his cases never make the headlines. These investigations often occur in highly regulated industries such as healthcare and financial services, with the consequent need to navigate complex regulatory matters as well as criminal investigations. An example of a major recent matter that Libby has led, or is currently leading, includes his conducting an internal investigation on behalf of the Board of Directors of a California chartered bank. Libby continues to serve as counsel to the Board in connection with several ongoing federal investigations. These types of investigations are becoming more frequent as bank regulators begin to focus on the obligations of banks to prevent their use for money laundering and terrorist financing.

CONGRATULATIONS to our colleagues
BENJAMIN GLUCK & GARY LINCENBERG
on being named among the
MOST INFLUENTIAL LAWYERS in WHITE COLLAR AND CYBER CRIME LAW

Bird Marella litigates complex civil and white collar criminal matters in state and federal courts across the United States. For more than 30 years, we have built our reputation on the quality of our lawyers and the outstanding results we achieve for our clients.
George B. Newhouse, Jr., Partner Dentons US LLP

George B. Newhouse, Jr., Partner at Dentons US LLP, obtained two defense verdicts in his last two trials in 2014 and 2015, ensuring a trial streak of five straight defense verdicts in criminal trials in state and federal courts and in SEC enforcement proceedings over the past decade, including two trial victories over the Securities and Exchange Commission.

One example of his success was in March of this year, when a federal jury in Santa Ana cleared former NFL star and Olympic athlete Willie Gault of securities fraud, soundly rejecting all of the SEC’s allegations that Gault committed securities fraud in connection with the purchase and sale of the securities of Los Angeles-based Heart Tronics, Inc. in late 2008.

Newhouse was lead counsel at trial. The jury found that Gault committed no fraud during his short tenure as co-CEO of the company. In June of last year, Newhouse obtained a complete acquittal in the Superior Court for the County of Riverside on behalf of a manager of a Del Taco in Hemet who was charged with assault with a deadly weapon following a melee in the parking lot of the fast food restaurant.

Mike Piazza, Partner DLA Piper

Mike Piazza’s distinguished legal career focuses on securities and white collar litigation, business litigation and complex commercial litigation. He regularly handles the defense of individuals and companies faced with allegations of wrongdoing asserted by US regulators (SEC, CFTC, FTC), the US Department of Justice, state attorneys general and foreign regulators. He is experienced with internal SEC procedures and enforcement policies, including those concerning the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and Dodd Frank whistleblower provisions. Previously, he was the Regional Trial Counsel for the Pacific Regional Office of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Piazza has wide-ranging securities and white collar litigation experience. He was the lead SEC trial attorney in the Commission’s civil lawsuit against ex-Gemstar CEO Henry Yuen, which resulted in one of the largest civil penalties ever obtained at trial against an individual. In that case, the court found Yuen liable for masterminding a massive accounting fraud at the company and ordered that he pay $22.1 million for securities law violations. He was also lead SEC trial counsel in a case against a rogue hedge fund operator. After a four-week jury trial in Dallas, he obtained a verdict against the investment advisor on multiple counts of securities fraud. During his time in the Los Angeles SEC office, he also was lead trial counsel on other major SEC cases.

Jeffrey H. Rutherford, Partner Crowell & Moring LLP

For clients facing high-stakes litigation, Jeffrey H. Rutherford, a Los Angeles-based partner in Crowell & Moring’s White Collar & Regulatory Enforcement Group is a go-to white collar attorney and trial lawyer. He focuses his practice on white-collar criminal defense for individuals and business entities facing high-profile public corruption, fraud and other criminal charges. Indeed, clients turn to Rutherford when their fate hangs in the balance. As a former federal public defender in the Central District of California, Rutherford learned to win cases on a shoestring budget and to advocate creatively on behalf of his clients. Now, in private practice, Rutherford brings a quiet, low-key approach to high-stakes and high-profile matters, handling some of the most significant cases in Southern California. He has been lead counsel on more than a dozen civil and criminal jury trials and has argued and briefed numerous cases before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Recently, Rutherford led the trial team that tried a qui tam suit under the civil False Claims Act on behalf of Lockheed Martin and won a complete defense verdict. He also represented the founder of a high-performing charter school on charges of misappropriation of public funds, embezzlement, and tax fraud in a case that has had a significant impact on education policy in California.
David Schindler  
**Partner & White Collar Defense & Investigations Practice**  
Latham & Watkins LLP

David Schindler is a leading lawyer when it comes to handling the most complex, high-profile cases involving white collar and government investigations and enforcement, including FCPA matters, healthcare fraud and abuse, securities fraud, and data breach and privacy matters. He is a partner in the Los Angeles office of Latham & Watkins and is a member and Co-chair of the firm’s White Collar Defense and Investigations Practice.

Among the highlights of Schindler’s recent work is US v. Tenet Healthcare. Schindler is representing Tenet and several of its hospitals in parallel criminal and civil False Claims Act matters involving allegations of violations of the federal Anti-kickback Statute related to arrangements between several Tenet facilities and Clinica de la Mama, a clinic providing pre-natal care to undocumented Hispanic women. The US and the State of Georgia have intervened in the civil matter, which is pending in the Middle District of Georgia.

Schindler also represented Delta Airlines in a high-profile test of California’s Online Privacy Protection Act (“CalOPPA”) filed by California Attorney General Kamala Harris. The California AG alleged that Delta failed to protect consumer’s privacy and that the airline was liable for millions of dollars in sanctions. Schindler successfully persuaded the trial court to dismiss the action and the matter is pending on appeal.

**Dan Shallman**  
**Partner**  
Covington & Burling LLP

As the co-chair of the ABA’s white collar crime committee for Southern California, Dan Shallman is a high-profile leader in the white collar community and is widely respected by his peers. In March, he joined Covington to lead its Southern California white collar defense and investigations practice and to help launch its new Los Angeles office. Shallman joined the firm after a distinguished career as both an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Los Angeles and as a partner at O’Melveny & Myers LLP. His reputation and leadership in the Los Angeles legal and white collar community led Covington Vice-Chair Lanny Breuer (former head of DOJ’s Criminal Division) to recruit Shallman.

Prior to and since joining Covington in the spring of 2015, Shallman has handled a string of impressive matters. Among other significant representations, he has handled representation of the Audit Committee of a leading international gaming company in a DOJ and SEC investigation regarding alleged improper payments to foreign government officials and handling with novel issues regarding foreign data privacy laws. He also represented a leading Los Angeles-based internet company in responding to international cyber-attacks and led the company’s efforts to work with law enforcement in an international investigation in an attempt to apprehend the suspects.

Dominique Shelton  
**Partner**  
Alston & Bird

Dominique Shelton is one of the top practitioners dealing with privacy and cyber law, with a particular focus on the protection of personal information. As a counselor, Shelton has represented companies in a variety of industries and service sectors, including digital sales and marketing, advertising, wireless/mobile, Internet, lead generation, manufacturing and electrical, software, telecommunications, and television. She advises clients on cutting edge legal issues arising from Web 3.0 marketing, including behavioral advertising, social networking websites, user-generated content, mobile marketing, mobile apps and digital advertising.

Shelton is also a skilled litigator, having defended various state and federal laws, including but not limited to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA), Federal Trade Commission Act (FTCA), Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA), Computer Fraud & Abuse Act, California False Advertising Law (Business & Professions Code §17500), California Unfair Competition Law (Business & Professions Code §17200), and California Penal Code § 502. Recently, Shelton has worked as lead partner on many significant matters for some of the biggest companies in the state.
**Rasha Gerges Shields**
Partner
Jones Day

Rasha Gerges Shields, a partner in the Los Angeles office of Jones Day, is an accomplished trial and appellate lawyer, with extensive experience in the areas of white collar crime, internal corporate investigations, and cybersecurity. Prior to rejoining Jones Day in 2014, she was an Assistant United States Attorney in Los Angeles for more than seven years. As a federal prosecutor, Shields prosecuted hundreds of cases for a variety of federal crimes, including white collar crimes and cyber-related crimes. Upon leaving the U.S. Attorney’s Office, she returned to Jones Day in the Fall of 2014, having previously worked for Jones Day as an associate from 2003 to 2007, where she handled several complex white collar criminal defense matters, including in the areas of corporate bribery charges, criminal copyright infringement, and bankruptcy fraud. Since her return, Shields has focused her practice on white collar criminal defense and educating clients about cybersecurity issues.

Shields has been identified by outside sources as a prominent authority and thought leader on the important issue of cybersecurity. Shortly after the Sony cyber attack was disclosed to the public, Shields was a featured speaker and organizer of a Cybersecurity Preparativeness training presented to in-house counsel at the major film studios through the Motion Pictures Association of America.

**Matthew E. Sloan**
Partner, Litigation
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

Matthew E. Sloan is a partner in Skadden’s Los Angeles Litigation Group. His practice focuses on white collar criminal defense, Securities Exchange Commission (SEC) enforcement actions and complex commercial litigation. He has extensive trial experience and has handled a variety of civil and criminal matters. In his more than 20 years of experience, both in private practice and as a federal prosecutor, Sloan has conducted several internal investigations for large domestic and foreign companies, involving allegations of insider trading, securities fraud and violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA). Prior to joining Skadden, Sloan served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Major Frauds Section of the U.S. Attorney’s Office and as an assistant U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia. During his tenure in the U.S. Department of Justice, Sloan conducted numerous grand jury investigations and was the lead or co-lead counsel in more than 30 trials, including the successful prosecution of defendants for securities fraud, health care fraud, bank fraud, wire fraud, money laundering and various narcotics and firearms offenses.

Recently, Sloan has defended individuals and corporations in all phases of complex civil, criminal and regulatory matters involving allegations of securities fraud, government contractor fraud, false claims act allegations and violations of the FCPA.

**John F. Stephens**
Partner
Sedgwick LLP

Resident in the Los Angeles office of Sedgwick LLP, John F. Stephens is chair of the firm’s Cyber Security and Privacy practice. Because of the rapidly evolving nature of this area of law, practitioners like Stephens face constantly shifting legislation and other challenges as they advise clients that operate in a fast-paced digital economy. Stephens has been designated as a Certified Information Privacy Professional, United States (CIPP/US) by the International Association Privacy Professionals (IAPP), the world’s largest information privacy organization.

Stephens represents clients across a wide spectrum of industries on all facets of the often intersecting spheres of privacy and data protection. His clients include leading international insurance companies, healthcare companies, media and entertainment companies, and major retailers. Sedgwick is one of the only law firms to provide insurance carriers specializing in cyber-liability insurance with data privacy and security attorneys who also have decades of insurance coverage, litigation defense and insurance regulatory experience. With high-profile data breaches regularly making national headlines, Stephens understands that keeping his clients out of the headlines to begin with is a highly valued service. He frequently advises clients with respect to federal and state privacy-related laws and regulations, including international data protection laws, which present complex challenges for multinational companies.

Los Angeles Business Journal’s 2016 Book of Lists

**TOP 10 Reasons to advertise in the Book of Lists:**

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10. If you’re not there… your competitor will be!

*Readex Subscriber Study
Erik Syverson
Partner, Co-Chair of the Cyber Liability Practice
Raines Feldman LLP

Erik Syverson is a well-known cyber liability litigator at the firm of Raines Feldman, LLP. He has a reputation as a bulldog litigator who understands the nuances of cyber-crimes and the underlying technology enabling such crimes to be committed. He has devoted the last 10 years of his practice to cyber-liability cases typically focusing upon federal and state statutes that provide from criminal and civil liability. Examples include the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, the Electronic Communication Privacy Act, California Penal Code Section, the Lanham Act and the Digital Millennium Copyright Act.

In the previous year, Syverson defended multiple illegal email access cases including one involving devolving spouses. The case was entitled Kung v. Chow and was disposed of without any criminal liability on the part of Syverson’s client. In another high profile case, Richemont v. Tradekey, et al., Syverson’s client, an electronic marketplace, was accused of facilitating an international counterfeiting ring. Syverson’s client was not charged criminally and the team secured civil liability of only $71,000 whereas the plaintiff’s sought in excess of $140 million in damages which would have been the highest award of statutory damages by any Court in the world.

Donna L. Wilson
Partner & Co-Chair, Privacy & Data Security Practice
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips LLP

Manatt’s Privacy and Data Security Co-Chair Donna Wilson brings and defends complex cases and class actions on behalf of clients in highly regulated industries. She focuses on counseling and defending clients with respect to privacy/data security and other consumer protection matters. A tenacious, non-linear, practical strategist, her experience as a trial lawyer informs her approach to client advisory services, litigation and settlements.

Since joining Manatt in late 2013 as its co-chair of the Privacy and Data Security group, Wilson has guided clients through cases and issues that reflect the range of cyber challenges and issues facing companies today. For example, she represented an insurance company in responding to a challenging information security incident involving the theft of sensitive personal information and defending the company in resulting litigation. She also successfully represented an e-commerce company in a data security incident involving unique third-party issues related to Payment Card Industry (PCI) compliance. Other high profile cases Wilson has handled include representing a healthcare company in bringing suit against unknown fraudsters engaged in a multi-layered spoofing and phishing scheme. She has also represented retailers and other companies in various statutory damages cases, including under Massachusetts and California data collection laws, as well as the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA).

Debra Wong Yang
Co-Chair White Collar Defense & Investigations/Co-Chair Privacy, Cybersecurity & Consumer Protection
Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP

Debra Wong Yang focuses her practice on strategic counseling, corporate compliance and government investigations and litigation. She litigates in federal, state and appellate courts. She has also served as a DOJ-appointed monitor over an orthopedic manufacturing company with health care compliance and regulatory issues. She has also represented companies and boards in internal investigations, compliance matters, and criminal investigations. In addition, she has provided advice on matters relating to FCRA, trade secrets, and cyber/data intrusions. She has overseen teams of attorneys conducting internal investigations and has reviewed compliance programs in a variety of industries. She has also managed matters in the crisis arena relating to recalled products, health care and insurance.

Yang previously served as the United States Attorney for the Central District of California. In that role, she served on President George W. Bush’s Corporate Fraud Task Force and chaired the Attorney General’s Advisory Committees on Cyber/Intellectual Property and Civil Rights. She was previously a California state judge, appointed to the Los Angeles Municipal Court in 1997, serving for a time as a Supervising Judge, and a member of the Los Angeles Superior Court bench in 2000. She served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for seven years prior to that, where she handled violent crimes, white-collar crimes, arson and computer crimes.

We salute you.

Manatt is proud to congratulate our partners

**John Libby and Donna Wilson**

on being named among the *Los Angeles Business Journal*’s Most Influential Lawyers in White Collar and Cyber Crimes Law.

Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP  manatt.com