

Sally Q. Yates

Partner

*Special Matters and Government
Investigations*

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Former Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates is a partner in King & Spalding's Special Matters & Government Investigations practice. Sally's deep experience, leadership and wide-ranging background provide clients with seasoned judgment in difficult times. Her practice focuses on counseling clients in complex and sensitive matters, including government enforcement and regulatory matters, congressional investigations, compliance, corporate governance and crisis management. Drawing upon her nearly three decades at the Department of Justice, she specializes in internal and independent investigations for public and private organizations and boards.

As the second-highest ranking official at the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and as Acting Attorney General, Sally was responsible for all of DOJ's 113,000 employees including all prosecutorial, litigating, and national security components. She also was responsible for all U.S. Attorney's offices and law enforcement agencies and the Bureau of Prisons. Sally oversaw DOJ's most significant matters and was instrumental in setting DOJ's enforcement priorities and initiatives.

An accomplished trial lawyer and Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers, Sally has tried numerous high-profile cases.

A 27-year veteran of DOJ, Sally rose through the ranks of Assistant United States Attorneys to become U.S. Attorney in Atlanta, Deputy Attorney General and Acting Attorney General. As Deputy Attorney General from 2015 through 2017, Sally was responsible for crafting and implementing initiatives focused on many of DOJ's priorities, including corporate fraud, cybercrime, gang violence, civil rights, and financial crime. She led DOJ's criminal justice reform efforts and implemented substantial prison reform measures.

Prior to becoming Deputy Attorney General, Sally was the first woman to serve as U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia. During her five years as the chief federal law enforcement official for the district, she oversaw the prosecution of all federal crimes and the litigation of civil matters and immediately became a leader in the Department as Vice Chair of the Attorney General's Advisory Committee (AGAC), which guides DOJ's strategies and policy decisions.

She has tried numerous white collar and public corruption cases, and she was the lead prosecutor of Olympic bomber Eric Rudolph.

Before entering government service, Sally practiced as a civil litigation associate at King & Spalding. She has served as a Visiting Distinguished Lecturer at Georgetown University Law Center, currently co-chairs the Board of Trustees of the non-partisan Council on Criminal Justice, and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Ethics Research Center. Sally is a frequent speaker on a variety of public policy issues.

Credentials

EDUCATION

J.D., University of Georgia, magna cum laude

B.A., University of Georgia

ADMISSIONS

Georgia

ASSOCIATIONS

Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers

Co-Chair, Board of Trustees, Council on Criminal Justice

Board of Directors, Ethics Research Center

Recognition

Pillars of Justice Award

THE APPLESEED NETWORK - 2019

Beacon of Justice Award

LAWYERS COMMITTEE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS UNDER LAW - 2018

Champion of Justice Award

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS - 2018

American Constitution Society Legal Legend Award

2018

University of Georgia Distinguished Service Scroll Award

2018

Anti-Defamation League Albert B. Tuttle Jurisprudence Award

2018

Southern Center for Human Rights Luminary Award

2018

University of Georgia Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication Lifetime Achievement Award

2018

Bar Association of Washington D.C. Lawyer of the Year
2017

Muslim Advocates Freedom Award
2017

Champion of Justice Award
URBAN LEAGUE OF GREATER ATLANTA

Emory University Public Interest Inspiration Award
2016

John Marshall Award
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Insights

CLIENT ALERT

February 26, 2021

Financial Services Industry Back Under Congress' Microscope

FEATURE

February 10, 2021

General Counsel Internal Investigations Decision Tree for the Automotive Industry

January 22, 2021

General Counsel Internal Investigations Decision Tree for the Technology Industry

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Events

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

October 8, 2020

Sally Yates to Speak at Georgia Justice Project Annual Grass Roots Justice Awards Program

September 23, 2020

Sally Yates to Speak at American Health Lawyers Association Conference

WEBINAR

October 7, 2020

11th Annual ACC CLE Jamboree

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News

IN THE NEWS

March 23, 2021 • Source: AJC

Sally Yates represents SK Global in an effort to get the Biden Administration to reverse an ITC decision that imperils the company's Georgia battery plant

October 1, 2020 • Source: *Daily Herald*

Sally Yates joins the advisory board of Project Healthy Minds

RECOGNITION

October 23, 2020

GIR Names King & Spalding to List of Top 30 Global Investigations Firms for Sixth Year

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