

Wick Sollers

Partner

*Special Matters and Government
Investigations*

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Wick Sollers chairs our firmwide Government Matters practice. He specializes in high-profile investigations and litigation, defending companies and individuals in pharmaceutical, medical device, healthcare, and cross-border matters in particular. Recognized by *Chambers USA* for his reputation as a “first-class” and “really terrific” defense lawyer who has an “incredible touch with clients,” Wick has represented President George H.W. Bush in two Independent Counsel investigations and coach Joe Paterno and his estate in litigation against the NCAA, as well as multiple companies, CEOs, CFOs and other top executives under investigation by federal and state law enforcement agencies. A Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, Wick has tried and argued cases in federal courts across the country, including the U.S. Supreme Court.

Wick has conducted numerous internal investigations and counseled clients on a variety of disclosure and governance issues. He represents pharmaceutical clients and healthcare providers in investigations conducted by multiple state attorneys general. He also counsels clients on preventive measures to avoid litigation and government investigations, and has worked with numerous companies to create and refine compliance programs.

In addition, Wick's experience includes accounting fraud defense, grand jury practice, criminal environmental matters, Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and money laundering cases, internal corporate investigations, representation before congressional committees, federal criminal trials and appeals, and general civil litigation, including *qui tam* cases.

Before entering private practice, Wick served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland, and later as Special Counsel to the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Investigations.

Wick has been recognized numerous times by clients, peers, industry experts and publications. Most recently, *Who's Who Legal: Business Crime Defense 2017*, a guide to the world's leading white-collar lawyers, selected Wick for his defense of corporate clients as well as individuals. *Chambers USA*, *Washington, D.C. Super Lawyers*, *Legal 500*, *Best Lawyers* and *LawDragon 500* also have praised Wick for excellence in white-collar criminal defense. Wick also was named an LMG Life Science Star in 2012–2016, as well as a Litigation Star by *Benchmark Litigation*.

Matters

Argued *Leocal v. Ashcroft* before the United States Supreme Court, challenging the scope of a federal criminal statute that defies "crimes of violence" for which a lawful permanent resident may be removed from the U.S. The court, in an opinion authored by Chief Justice Rehnquist, issued a unanimous 9-0 decision, reversing the Eleventh Circuit, in a complete victory for Wick's client.

Along with this partner, Steve Cowen, obtained the full acquittal of their client, **the former Controller of Qwest**, in a nine-week highly publicized trial in federal court in Denver, Colorado. The acquittal was the first in a high-profile case of this nature since the Enron scandal broke.

Obtained an acquittal in a six-week trial in federal court in Maryland on three of four counts charging an executive of a medical device manufacturer with fraud in the filing of 510(k) applications with the FDA. The remaining false statement count, on which the defendant was convicted, was overturned by the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit after he argued the case. The case was ultimately dismissed with prejudice by the U.S. Attorney's Office and the client fully exonerated.

Along with Judge Griffin Bell, represented **former President George H.W. Bush** in the Iran-Contra and Clinton Passport Independent Counsel investigations.

Along with Judge Griffin Bell, led publicly disclosed internal investigations into the FBI's Office of Professional Responsibility at FBI Director Mueller's request; and the Statute of Liberty Foundation at the request of its Board of Directors.

Along with former partner, Larry Thompson, represented **Lockheed Corporation** in the investigation and settlement of allegations of violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act as a result of payments made by Lockheed to a member of the Egyptian Parliament. In addition to the acquittal at trial of the CFO of Qwest above, represented the **CFO of Dynergy** and the **Executive Vice-President of Finance at WorldCom**. No charges were filed against either client.

Represented **the Product Manager of Fresenius/NMC** who was indicted on 17 felonies by a federal grand jury in Boston, Massachusetts. He ultimately convinced the U.S. Attorney's Office to dismiss the case in its entirety and the client was fully exonerated.

Resolved a criminal and civil investigation of **Eisai, Inc.** based on a qui tam complaint alleging off-label promotion and anti-kickback violations, conducted by the Boston U.S. Attorney's Office, for an \$11 million civil settlement and no corporate integrity agreement.

Represented **Boehringer-Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc.** in a broad-based investigation for alleged off-label promotion of four products and violations of the anti-kickback statute by the U.S. Attorney's Office in Baltimore. The case was resolved civilly in October 2012 with only a civil settlement and no admission of liability.

Represented **Jazz Pharmaceuticals** in a federal criminal/civil investigation conducted by the U.S. Attorney's Office in the E.D.N.Y. into off-label promotion, a case that was settled favorably in June 2007.

Represented **GlaxoSmithKline** in a consumer fraud lawsuit announced by the New York Attorney General's Office under Eliot Spitzer on June 2, 2004, and resolve favorable in August of 2004.

Credentials

EDUCATION

J.D., University of Maryland, with honors

A.B., Princeton University

ADMISSIONS

Supreme Court of the United States
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit
U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan
U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado
U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia
District of Columbia

CLERKSHIPS

Law Clerk, Hon. Norman P. Ramsey, U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland

ASSOCIATIONS

American Bar Association
The District of Columbia Bar
American College of Trial Lawyers, 2002

Insights

ARTICLE

August 2, 2021 • Source: ABA Practice Points
Supreme Court Narrows Computer Fraud and Abuse Act

March 11, 2021
Biden Administration - What's Ahead for the Life Sciences Industry?

FEATURE

February 10, 2021
General Counsel Internal Investigations Decision Tree for the Automotive Industry

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Events

CONFERENCE

April 7, 2016
West Coast Pharma & Medical Device University

WEBINAR

July 22, 2014
The Escalation of Federal Enforcement – Scrutiny on Clinical Studies and Scientific Exchange

News

RECOGNITION

November 10, 2021
GIR Names King & Spalding to List of Top 30 Global Investigations Firms for Seventh Year

October 13, 2021

Benchmark Litigation Recognizes King & Spalding as a Leading Litigation Firm

October 5, 2021

LMG Life Sciences Recognizes King & Spalding With Multiple Rankings in its 2021 Guide

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