

## William Johnson (Bill)

Partner

*Securities Enforcement and Regulation /  
Special Matters and Government  
Investigations*

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Bill Johnson represents entities and individuals in government investigations in white-collar criminal and regulatory matters, and resulting litigation. Bill also represents clients in data, privacy and security matters. Bill is a former federal prosecutor and Chief of the Securities and Commodities Fraud Task Force in the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, and a former Enforcement Division attorney at the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Bill represents clients in investigations and litigation involving the U.S. Department of Justice, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, as well as other federal, state and local agencies. He also conducts internal investigations and advises clients on anti-corruption matters.

Previously, Bill was Chief of the Securities and Commodities Fraud Task Force in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York. In this role, he led a unit of prosecutors and law enforcement agents in investigations, trials, appeals and other litigation related to insider trading, fraudulent investment schemes, corporate financial fraud and options backdating. As Chief and Deputy Chief, Bill oversaw the investigation and prosecution of many notable cases, including Bernard Madoff, Galleon Group/Raj Rajaratnam, Marc Dreier, Refco and Adelphia. Before that, as an Assistant U.S. Attorney and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, Bill investigated and prosecuted some of the nation's highest-profile securities fraud cases, including former WorldCom CEO Bernard Ebbers and CFO Scott Sullivan, Steven Madden and Michael Milken.

Prior to joining the U.S. Attorney's Office, Bill served as Senior Counsel in the SEC's Division of Enforcement, leading investigations and litigation, and in the Office of the General Counsel, Appellate Litigation Group.

Bill also served as an Independent Monitor for the U.S. Virgin Islands Police Department, where Bill led a team of police practices experts evaluating the department's compliance with a federal consent decree mandating policy and procedure improvements regarding the use of excessive force.

Bill has been recognized by *Benchmark Litigation* as a 2017 U.S. Litigation Star and by *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business* as a leading individual in Litigation—White-Collar

Crime & Government Investigations. He has also been recognized by *Legal 500* in Litigation—White-Collar Criminal Defense and in Financial Services Litigation.

## Matters

**Equifax, Inc.** in various government investigations arising out of the 2017 cybersecurity incident.

Successfully defended Equifax in SEC investigation of disclosure issues, resulting in termination of investigation with no enforcement action.

Negotiated settlement resolving investigation of New York Department of Financial Services.

**Forex Capital Markets LLC** in CFTC investigation and litigation in SDNY alleging capitalization, reporting, and marketing violations. Negotiated settlement resolving these claims in February 2017.

**Credit Suisse AG** in DOJ's multiyear tax and securities investigation of the Swiss banking industry. Helped negotiate historic global settlement in 2014. Representing Credit Suisse during the multiyear monitorship that followed settlement with the New York DFS.

**Deutsche Bank** in a multiyear SEC investigation involving credit derivatives trading, risk management, and valuation practices. Negotiated settlement resolving the matter on a no-admit/no-deny basis.

**Multiple traders** in connection with DOJ, CFTC and Federal Reserve investigations of foreign exchange trading.

**A broker** in connection with DOJ, CFTC and international investigations involving LIBOR rates.

**High-level executives and other employees of global investment banks** in connection with DOJ and CFTC investigations of ISDAFIX benchmarks.

**Individual employees of a global investment bank** in connection with DOJ and SEC, and NYAG investigations involving residential mortgage-backed securities.

**An accounting firm** in connection with investigations by DOJ and SEC concerning a pharmaceutical company's financial reporting.

**Wells Fargo Bank** in SDNY civil action alleging FIRREA violations in connection with the bank's participation in FHA lending program. Negotiated settlement resolving claims in April 2016.

**A major bank** in DOJ criminal investigation regarding anti-money- laundering and other issues related to allegations of fraud by a customer.

**A global investment bank** in SEC and FINRA investigations involving a high-profile investment. The investigation was terminated favorably to the bank.

**A global investment bank** in SEC and DOJ investigations involving a high-profile investment manager. The investigation was terminated favorably to the bank.

**Individual employees of an investment advisor** in an SEC investigation relating to collateralized debt obligations. The investigation was terminated favorably as to all clients.

**Individuals in DOJ and SEC investigations** into alleged insider trading. The investigation was terminated favorably as to all clients.

## Credentials

### EDUCATION

J.D., American University

B.A., Ohio Wesleyan University, cum laude

### ADMISSIONS

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York

Connecticut

District of Columbia

New York

## Recognition

Director's Award for his extensive work on the WorldCom case

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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U.S. Litigation Star

BENCHMARK LITIGATION, 2017

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Leading individual in Litigation—White-Collar Crime & Government Investigations

CHAMBERS USA: AMERICA'S LEADING LAWYERS FOR BUSINESS

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Litigation—White-Collar Criminal Defense and in Financial Services Litigation

LEGAL 500

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## Insights

### ARTICLE

*September 29, 2021 • Source: Cybersecurity Law Report*

SEC Cybersecurity Disclosure Enforcement Heats Up: Best Practices

*September 22, 2021 • Source: Cybersecurity Law Report*

SEC Cybersecurity Disclosure Enforcement Heats Up: Recent Developments

### CLIENT ALERT

*July 14, 2021*

SEC Returns Spotlight to Cybersecurity Disclosure Enforcement

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## Events

### WEBINAR

*June 16, 2021*

8th Annual Cybersecurity & Privacy Summit

*June 10, 2020*

DOJ Enforcement Trends and Updates for Financial Institutions

*May 13, 2020*

Cybersecurity and Privacy Webinar Mini-Series Part 2: Data Privacy and Security Risk Management: Securing the Enterprise and Beyond

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## News

### IN THE NEWS

*October 1, 2021 • Source: Law360*

Daniel Sale, Ed Power, William Johnson and Carmen Lawrence represent Osiris Therapeutics' former CFO Philip Jacoby before a Maryland federal court in a SEC matter

*June 26, 2021 • Source: Secure Disruptions*

Bill Johnson discusses the impact of First American Financial's settlement with the SEC for failures in disclosure controls and procedures of cybersecurity vulnerabilities

### RECOGNITION

*October 13, 2021*

Benchmark Litigation Recognizes King & Spalding as a Leading Litigation Firm

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