



## Grant P. Rigdon

Associate

✉ [grigdon@birdmarella.com](mailto:grigdon@birdmarella.com)

☎ 310.201.2100

**Practices:**

Intellectual Property, Complex Business Litigation, Civil Litigation

Grant P. Rigdon is an associate at Bird Marella. He focuses his practice primarily on complex civil litigation and intellectual property matters with an emphasis on patent infringement litigation.

Prior to joining Bird Marella, Grant was an associate at Kirkland & Ellis LLP in its Los Angeles office, where he worked in the firm's intellectual property litigation group. Before practicing law, Grant was a Design Engineer with Chevron at its El Segundo oil refinery, where he managed and provided engineering design for complex projects involving pumps, heat exchangers, pressure vessels, piping, and more.

Grant received his J.D. from UCLA School of Law, where he graduated Order of the Coif. While in law school, he served as president of UCLA's Intellectual Property Law Association and was a writing advisor for the Legal Research and Writing Program.

He received two undergraduate degrees from the University of California, Los Angeles: his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and his B.A. in Economics in 2016.

## Education & Admissions

- UCLA School of Law, J.D., 2022
- University of California, Los Angeles, Bachelor of Science, Mechanical Engineering & Bachelor of Arts, Economics, 2016

- California, 2022

## Notable Matters

### *Representative Matters at Previous Firm*

Represented Finch Therapeutics and the University of Minnesota in a patent infringement action brought by Ferring Pharmaceuticals and Rebiotix in the District of Delaware concerning gut microbiome products. Achieved a favorable jury verdict and over \$25M in compensatory damages.

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Represented Intel in a patent infringement action brought by PACT in the District of Delaware concerning various computer processor technologies.

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Represented a leading healthcare technology company and its affiliates in a breach of contract/royalty agreement action brought by a consulting surgeon. Achieved a favorable settlement.

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Represented a surgeon plaintiff in a breach of contract/royalty agreement action against a leading healthcare technology company. Achieved a favorable settlement following arbitration.

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Represented two leading computer technology and software companies in a patent infringement action in the Eastern District of Texas and Northern District of California concerning software products and services.

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Represented a global pharmaceutical company in numerous patent infringement actions brought in the District of Delaware against multiple generic pharmaceutical product companies.

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Represented, along with the ACLU of Southern California, a group of Orange County, California residents who stayed in homeless shelters operated by Orange County and the city of Anaheim in a lawsuit alleging sex-based discrimination and harassment, policies that restrict freedom of movement, substandard living conditions and retaliation for alerting authorities of problems at the shelters.



## Frances C. McDonald

Associate

✉ [fmcDonald@birdmarella.com](mailto:fmcDonald@birdmarella.com)

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**Practices:**

Complex Business Litigation, Intellectual Property, Securities Litigation, Entertainment

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Frances C. McDonald is an associate at Bird Marella. She focuses her practice primarily on complex civil litigation, arbitration, and mediation.

She has significant experience in antitrust, mass tort, breach of contract, intellectual property, and securities matters. Frances is also dedicated to her thriving pro bono practice and has particular expertise in civil rights and immigration-related matters.

Prior to joining Bird Marella, Frances was an associate at Cravath, Swaine & Moore in their New York office and was a Pro Bono Scholar Extern with Phillips Black. She was also a summer corporate legal intern with the National Football League.

Frances received her J.D. from New York University School of Law where she was a Pro Bono Scholar and a Fellow with the Birnbaum Women's Leadership Center. She also served as President of the Sports Law Association and Article Selection Editor for the *N.Y.U. Review of Law & Social Change*. Frances received her B.A. from the University of Chicago, where she was Captain of the Women's Volleyball team.

## Education & Admissions

- New York University School of Law, J.D., 2021
- The University of Chicago, Bachelor of Arts, *cum laude*, Philosophy and Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies (double major), 2018

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- New York, 2021

# Notable Matters

## *Representative Matters at Previous Firm*

Represented Light & Wonder (formerly Scientific Games) in putative class action and individual antitrust litigation filed in Illinois federal court, and in an arbitration before the American Arbitration Association, involving *Walker Process* antitrust monopolization claims that concern automatic card shufflers used in casinos.

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Secured dismissal of putative antitrust class action litigation filed against client Morgan Stanley and four other global financial institutions concerning the trading of U.K. government bonds.

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Secured a substantial monetary settlement on behalf of a woman who was sexually assaulted by NYC Department of Correction officers while detained on Rikers Island.

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Represented Forward Air Corporation in connection with an action filed by Omni Logistics, LLC in the Delaware Court of Chancery, which sought to compel Forward Air to close its proposed acquisition of Omni. On the day the trial was scheduled to begin, the parties announced a settlement, agreeing to amend the merger agreement on terms favorable to Forward Air and dismiss their claims.

## Awards & Recognitions

- Pro Bono Publico Award, The Legal Aid Society, 2023
- Associate Leadership Institute (ALI) LITE Program, New York City Bar Association, 2022



**Heejin H. Hwang**  
Associate



Heejin H. Hwang is an associate at Bird Marella. She focuses her practice primarily on complex civil litigation.

Heejin has represented clients in trial, appellate, and bankruptcy court proceedings, as well as in government investigations and before administrative agencies. She has litigated a wide range of matters, including copyright infringement, anti-SLAPP, whistleblower retaliation, breach of contract, environmental, and civil rights actions.

Prior to joining Bird Marella, Heejin was an associate at Greenberg Gross, an elite boutique trial law firm, and a staff attorney with Lone Star Legal Aid's Environmental Justice Team in Houston, Texas. Heejin clerked for the Honorable Jesus G. Bernal of the United States District Court for the Central District of California.

Heejin received her J.D. from the UCLA School of Law, where she specialized in Critical Race Studies and was the Chief Articles Editor for the UCLA Law Review. She received her B.A. from Harvard College.

## Education, Clerkship & Admissions

- UCLA School of Law, J.D., 2019
  - Harvard University, Bachelor of Arts, Government and Secondary in East Asian Studies, 2012
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- Law Clerk to the Hon. Jesus G. Bernal, U.S. District Court, Central District of California
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- California, 2023
- Texas, 2019



**Gregory T. Nolan**  
Of Counsel



**Practices:**

Securities Fraud and Insider Trading, Securities Litigation, Business and Financial Crimes, Complex Business Litigation, Fraud, Qui Tam, Civil RICO, Internal Investigations

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**Gregory (Greg) Nolan is a former federal and state prosecutor with deep trial and appellate experience. He represents individuals and companies in high-stakes commercial litigation, criminal cases, and investigations.**

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Mr. Nolan is a seasoned trial attorney with over a decade of experience. He has tried nearly a dozen cases, argued hundreds of court hearings, drafted briefs to federal and state appellate courts, and argued before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. A former prosecutor with the United States Attorney's Office and a California District Attorney's office, he leverages his extensive experience in defending clients in white collar matters and Fortune 500 entities in complex commercial litigation.

During his time as a prosecutor, Mr. Nolan charged hundreds of cases and oversaw the investigation of even more. Many of his cases were in white-collar matters involving tax fraud, wire and mail fraud, falsifying government documents, and healthcare-related crimes. He also prosecuted individuals in other criminal matters, including extraditing drug dealers, murder and attempted murder, and cybercrime. His criminal defense work includes representing an individual executive who was charged in one of the DOJ's largest investigations related to COVID-relief fraud.

On the civil litigation side, Mr. Nolan has represented major technology companies in partnership disputes, represented a prominent hedge fund against one of the largest banks in the country related to selling defective mortgage-backed securities, advised local and state elected officials in election and public safety-related matters, and represented individuals and companies in SEC investigations and actions. His extensive and versatile experience allows him to provide clients with a unique perspective and expertise in dual criminal and civil litigation matters.

Mr. Nolan's written legal analysis has been published in *The New York Times* and *Rolling Stone*, and he has provided legal commentary on NPR's *All Things Considered*.

Beyond his prior experience as a prosecutor, Mr. Nolan was an associate at Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan and Senior Counsel at a boutique litigation firm in downtown Los Angeles.

Mr. Nolan is committed to public service. Since leaving the government, he served as the manager of an indigent criminal defense conflict panel for one of California's largest counties. In this capacity, he instituted a number of reforms to modernize the panel, which represents criminal defendants who cannot afford an attorney but for whom the Public Defender has a conflict of interest.



# Education, Clerkship & Admissions

- Stanford Law School, J.D., 2012
- Stetson University, Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, 2007

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- Law Clerk to the Hon. Dean D. Pregerson and the Hon. George H. Wu, U.S. District Court for the Central District of California

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- California, 2013

## Articles & Publications

- Author, "[A Reversal Cannot Undo the Damage Caused by This Voting Fraud Case](#)," *The New York Times*, April 2024
- Author, "[To Fight Corporate Crime, the DOJ Should Give People a Reason to Snitch](#)," *Rolling Stone*, April 2024
- Quoted, "[Trials begin for Patriot Front members, but some say local prosecutions aren't enough](#)," *National Public Radio*, September 2022



## Emily M. Grant

Associate



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☎ 310.201.2100

### Practices:

Complex Business Litigation, Employment, Class Actions, Fraud, Qui Tam, Civil RICO, Health Care Litigation

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Ms. Grant is an associate at Bird Marella who primarily focuses her practice on complex civil litigation. Before joining Bird Marella, Ms. Grant completed a clerkship with the Honorable Judge Sherilyn Peace Garnett of the Central District of California. She was previously an associate at Irell & Manella in Los Angeles where she represented businesses at every stage of litigation, including as a part of a federal trial team that returned a verdict of \$940 million. Ms. Grant also maintained an active pro bono practice, including assisting with three asylum cases, adoption cases, and defending community groups that drafted a voters' initiative for a special tax to help prevent homelessness against a constitutional challenge to the initiative.

Ms. Grant earned her J.D. from the Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, where she was the Deputy Editor-in-Chief for Northwestern's *Journal of Criminal Law & Criminology*, the Vice President of the American Constitution Society, and President of the student-funded public interest fund that provided financial support to public interest students. Ms. Grant also worked as a student attorney in the MacArthur Justice Center representing clients in civil rights actions. Throughout law school, she volunteered at local civil aid clinics and with the Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights, including by serving as a poll observer in jails during the first elections occurring inside pretrial detention centers.

## Education & Admissions

- Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, J.D., magna cum laude, Order of the Coif, 2021
- University of Wisconsin-Madison, B.A., Journalism, 2013

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- California, 2021



## Sarah P. Guinee

Associate



✉ [sguinee@birdmarella.com](mailto:sguinee@birdmarella.com)

☎ 310.201.2100

### Practices:

Complex Business Litigation, Entertainment

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Sarah Guinee is an attorney specializing in complex business disputes with a particular focus in entertainment litigation.

Before joining Bird Marella, Ms. Guinee was an associate at Paul Hastings LLP in Los Angeles. During her tenure, she briefed many issues at the trial court and appellate levels, covering a wide range of legal matters including breach of contract, employment disputes, defamation, and copyright issues. She also played a crucial role in analyzing facts and preparing defenses for clients in the entertainment, technology, and hospitality sectors, handling both single-plaintiff and class-action disputes.

Her commitment to justice is further demonstrated through her advocacy and civil rights pro bono work. In 2024, Ms. Guinee was among the honorees of the ACLU Foundation of Southern California's Advocates for Justice award in recognition of her work in the *Rosas v. Baca* settlement,



which addresses the use of force by the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department.

Ms. Guinee earned her J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law, where she was involved in issues at the intersection of media and human rights and received the inaugural Democracy Fellowship for this work. Prior to law school, Ms. Guinee held fellowships at the Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University, the Committee to Protect Journalists, and *The Atlantic* magazine.

## Education & Admissions

- University of Virginia School of Law, J.D., 2023
- Dartmouth College, B.A., Economics, *cum laude*, 2017

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- California, 2023



## Bill Clawges

Associate



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### Practices:

Civil Litigation, Complex Business Litigation, Employment, Class Actions

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William (Bill) Clawges practices in the litigation and arbitration of complex business disputes, including breach of contract, trade secret, intellectual property, and employment.

Before joining Bird Marella, Mr. Clawges worked as an associate at Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP, where he represented financial institutions, international organizations, major social media platforms, and various other companies in a range of areas, including navigating the discovery process and preparing for trial and arbitration.

Mr. Clawges earned his J.D. from the Northwestern Pritzker School of Law in Chicago, where he served as Executive Editor of the *Journal of Criminal Law & Criminology* and Treasurer and Vice President of the Environmental Law Society. He also volunteered at the Katten José de Diego Legal Clinic.

## Education & Admissions

- Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, J.D., *magna cum laude*, Order of the Coif, 2022
- American University, B.A., *magna cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, 2016

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- California, 2022
  - U.S. District Court, Central District of California



## Monique M. Candiff

Associate



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☎ 310.201.2100

**Practices:**

Civil Litigation, Complex Business Litigation

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Monique Candiff is an associate at Bird Marella and primarily represents clients in complex business litigation matters. She has experience representing private and public companies in federal and state court litigation matters, including breach of contract, copyright and trademark infringement, class action defense, environmental matters, and fraud disputes.

Ms. Candiff maintains an active pro bono practice. She has represented pro bono clients in eminent domain matters and in matters involving violations of constitutional and civil rights.

Prior to joining Bird Marella, Ms. Candiff was an associate with Sidley Austin LLP in its downtown Los Angeles office and was a member of its commercial litigation and disputes team.

Ms. Candiff earned her J.D. from Stanford Law School. During her time at Stanford, she was the development director for the *Stanford Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Journal* and served as co-president of the Women of Color Collective.

## Education & Admissions

- Stanford Law School, J.D., 2021
- University of California, Berkeley, B.A., Rhetoric, B.A. Legal Studies, 2017

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- California, 2021



## Alec M. Cronin

### Associate



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#### Practices:

Complex Business Litigation, Class Actions, Entertainment, Environmental, Internal Investigations

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Mr. Cronin is an experienced complex commercial litigator who has represented clients in various industries, including financial services, technology, environmental, and media.

Prior to joining Bird Marella, Mr. Cronin was an associate with Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe where, in addition to his legal practice, he was named an Orrick Fellow where he had the opportunity to work with the Natural Resource Defense Council. In this role, he liaised with grassroots organizations to address environmental issues and negotiated with government officials to rectify environmental matters.

Mr. Cronin earned his J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law where he was the Managing Editor of the *Berkeley Journal of African-American Law & Policy*.

## Education & Admissions

- UC Berkeley School of Law, J.D., 2020
- University of Florida, B.S., Environmental Science, 2016

- 
- California, 2021



## Devon E. Porter

Associate

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☎ 310.201.2100

**Practices:**

Business and Financial Crimes, Civil Litigation, Complex Business Litigation

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Ms. Porter is an experienced litigator who joined the firm in 2024.

Before joining Bird Marella, Ms. Porter worked as an attorney in the Capital Habeas Units of the Los Angeles and Philadelphia Federal Public Defender offices. As a deputy federal public defender, Ms. Porter successfully represented clients on death row challenging the bases of their convictions and sentences.

Ms. Porter received her J.D. from Yale Law School. After graduating, Ms. Porter clerked for the Honorable Richard A. Paez on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Ms. Porter also served as a Yale Law Liman Fellow with the ACLU of Southern California, where she helped litigate and reach a favorable settlement in a lawsuit challenging the Los Angeles Superior Court's practice of suspending driver's licenses for unpaid traffic fines.

## Education, Clerkship & Admissions

- Yale Law School, J.D., 2015
- Reed College, B.A., 2011, Phi Beta Kappa

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- Law Clerk to the Hon. Richard A. Paez, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals

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- California, 2015
  - Central District of California
  - Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals
  - Pennsylvania, 2019
  - Eastern District of Pennsylvania

# Associations

- Member, Women's White Collar Defense Association



## William E. Johnston

Partner



✉ [wjohnston@birdmarella.com](mailto:wjohnston@birdmarella.com)

☎ 310.201.2100

### Practices:

Business and Financial Crimes, Securities Fraud and Insider Trading, Internal Investigations, Complex Business Litigation, Fraud, Qui Tam, Civil RICO, Health Care Fraud and Regulatory Enforcement

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**William (Will) Johnston is a former federal prosecutor and accomplished trial lawyer who represents corporations and individuals in government investigations, enforcement matters, and complex business disputes.**

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Mr. Johnston is a respected white collar defense and business trial lawyer. He represents companies and individuals in government enforcement matters and high-stakes business litigation in state and federal court. His experience spans a range of industries, including the technology sector, cryptocurrency, financial services, healthcare, and government programs. As a prosecutor, Mr. Johnston worked extensively alongside civil enforcement agencies such as the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Commodity Futures and Trading Commission (CFTC), and Federal Trade Commission (FTC). He uses this experience to his clients' advantage when they face parallel investigations or civil enforcement matters.

Prior to joining Bird Marella, Mr. Johnston served as Assistant Chief in the Fraud Section of the Criminal Division of the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. During his decade-long tenure at the DOJ, Mr. Johnston was the lead prosecutor on dozens of complex fraud cases against corporations and individuals involving the full range of white collar offenses, including allegations of insider trading, accounting fraud, securities fraud, bribery, money laundering, and obstruction of justice. He has tried numerous complex criminal cases before juries around the country. Some of these cases include:

- Investigation and eleven-week trial of former executives from Outcome Health, a high-profile Chicago-based healthcare technology startup, in a \$1 billion corporate, bank, and investor

fraud scheme, described by *Crain's Chicago Business* as “one of the most high-profile and lengthy white-collar cases in Chicago history.” Mr. Johnston delivered a seven-hour closing argument, resulting in convictions of all three defendants.

- Five-week trial of a former CEO of a Las Vegas and Tokyo-based investment company for running a \$1.56 billion Ponzi scheme involving the sale of medical debt – one of the largest Ponzi scheme cases ever to go to trial. Obtained convictions on all counts.
- Four-week trial of Boston-based executive vice president of State Street Corporation for a scheme to charge hidden commission on billions of dollars of securities trades for pension fund clients. Obtained convictions on most serious charges.

Mr. Johnston also has extensive experience litigating complex asset forfeiture issues. For over four years, Mr. Johnston supervised many of the Fraud Section's enforcement programs, including its portfolio of consumer, investor, and bank fraud cases, where he coordinated closely with the FTC, SEC, and the Office of the Inspector General of the FDIC. For the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Johnston oversaw the Paycheck Protection Program enforcement initiative where he supervised approximately 30 prosecutors and over 100 investigations. Through this initiative, he and his team charged over 160 defendants in over 30 different judicial districts involving losses of over \$180 million.

Well respected by his peers, Mr. Johnston served as a thought leader within the DOJ on issues concerning electronic evidence gathering and discovery. Mr. Johnston has received several awards and honors throughout his career. Some of these include the Assistant Attorney General's Award for Exceptional Service and the Investigations Award for Excellence from the Council for Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency. Mr. Johnston is a graduate of Stanford Law School and Harvard College.

## Education, Clerkship & Admissions

- Stanford Law School, J.D., 2012
- Harvard College, B.A., summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, 2008

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- Law Clerk to the Hon. Timothy Tymkovich, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit

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- California, 2012
  - District of Columbia, 2016

## Notable Matters

### *Representative Matters at Bird Marella*



Trial counsel for one of the country's largest real estate firms in a nearly four-week jury trial in Los Angeles Superior Court in a case involving allegations of defective construction and material non-disclosures in a multi-unit, mixed-use development.

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Obtained \$1.4 million stipulated judgment in federal court on behalf of publicly-traded shipping and logistics company against former regional executive accused of embezzling over \$1 million in company funds. Filed complaint and obtained no-notice temporary restraining order freezing employee's bank and investment accounts within two weeks of being retained. Frozen accounts later liquidated to satisfy judgment.

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Represented health care company CEO in a federal criminal health care fraud investigation related to COVID-19 testing.

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Representing medical doctor charged by the Department of Justice with fraud and money laundering in connection with Paycheck Protection Program loan.

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Represented founder/CEO of technology start-up accused by venture capital investor of misappropriating company funds. Successfully negotiated confidential exit from company.

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Successfully negotiated settlement for software company to threatened class action lawsuit alleging violations of the California Invasion of Privacy Act.

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### ***Representative Matters at the Department of Justice***

Investigation and two-week trial of former executives and employees of a now-defunct Small Business Administration (SBA) lending partner in the Indianapolis area for a scheme to fraudulently obtain SBA loan guarantees for ineligible borrowers.

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Investigation and one-week trial of Wells Fargo branch manager for scheme to launder proceeds

of consumer fraud through Los Angeles-area Wells Fargo bank branch.

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Investigation and prosecution of Las Vegas-based owner of cryptocurrency and metaverse companies for scheme to defraud over 10,000 retail investors.

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Supervision of prosecution of nationwide multi-level marketing business for operating as an illegal pyramid scheme.

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Investigation and prosecution of Texas-based owner of oil and gas development company for investor fraud and obstructing SEC investigation.

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Prosecution of owner and employees of Miami-based mortgage company for \$64 million scheme to defraud the Federal Housing Administration through originating fraudulent mortgages.

## Awards & Recognitions

- Assistant Attorney General's Award for Exceptional Service, 2024
- Assistant Attorney General's Award for Exceptional Service, 2020
- Investigations Award for Excellence, Council for Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, 2015
- Attorney General's Honors Program, 2013

## Articles & Publications

- Author, "[Trump Faces Uphill Battle If He Tries To Target Prosecutors](#)," *Law360*, November 2024
- Quoted, "[Boeing Has Four Weeks to Stop Possible Prosecution Over Crashes](#)," *Bloomberg*, May 2024
- Author, "[Discord Stock Case Toss Means Little For Fraud Defendants](#)," *Law360*, April 2024



## Abraham “Avi” Rejwan

Associate

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**Practices:**

Business and Financial Crimes, Internal Investigations, Securities Litigation, Lawyers and Law Firms, Intellectual Property, Complex Business Litigation

Abraham “Avi” Rejwan represents individual and corporate clients in high-stakes civil litigation, government investigations, and prosecution in white-collar matters. Mr. Rejwan was previously an associate at Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP.

Mr. Rejwan earned his J.D. from UCLA School of Law with the Dean’s Merit Scholarship. During law school, he externed for The Honorable Dean D. Pregerson of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, participated in the First Amendment Amicus Brief Clinic, and was appointed by UC President Janet Napolitano to the Board of Directors for UC’s National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement.

Prior to law school, Mr. Rejwan earned a B.A. in Economics from UCLA and served on the UC Board of Regents as the UC Student Regent, the sole representative of 250,000 students across the 10-campus UC system.

## Education & Admissions

- University of California, Los Angeles School of Law, J.D., 2020
- University of California, Los Angeles, B.A., 2016

- California, 2021

## Awards & Recognitions

- Impact Case of the Year: *USA v. Lynch and Chamberlain, Benchmark Litigation*, 2025
- Most Important Court Case of the Year, *U.S. v. Lynch et al.*, Global Investigations Review, 2024