

Matthew G. Nielsen

Partner

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Matthew Nielsen represents companies, boards, executives, and securities firms and professionals in internal and government investigations and litigation involving civil and criminal misconduct. Matthew has deep experience in handling matters involving public company accounting and disclosure issues, insider trading, securities fraud, US export controls and sanctions, Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), whistleblower complaints and healthcare fraud. In addition, Matthew regularly represents clients before and in litigation with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Department of Justice (DOJ), Financial Industry Regulatory Agency (FINRA), Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS), Department of the Treasury and other federal and state agencies.

Drawing on more than two decades of defending clients in government investigations and litigation, Matthew assists management and directors in running internal investigations; addressing sensitive governance issues; and establishing and evaluating compliance programs to help deter and detect problems early. His experience includes leading the court-appointed compliance monitor team for a large, international technology company, where he evaluated, for the court and government, the company's obligations to build a world-class compliance program and investigated potential violations of its plea agreement.

When issues cannot be avoided or resolved, Matthew brings his substantial trial experience to defend clients in state and federal courts, administrative proceedings and arbitrations. Among his successes for clients, he has tried and won cases against the SEC; successfully resolved a multi-billion dollar securities class action; won an injunction and appeal for a public-company in a proxy fight and obtained an injunction and recovered damages for a client for theft of trade secrets.

Industries

[Energy](#)

[Finance](#)

[Healthcare](#)

[Real Estate](#)

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Practices

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[Internal Investigations](#)

[Monitorships](#)

[Healthcare & Life Sciences](#)

[Incident Prevention & Response](#)

[Litigation](#)

[Securities Litigation](#)

[FCPA](#)

[False Claims Act](#)

Matthew is also the co-host of the [Bracewell Sidebar](#), a podcast devoted to government enforcement and investigations with a focus on white-collar criminal defense.

Experience

Phillips 66

- \$3.8 billion acquisition of all of the publicly held common units of DCP Midstream, LP in a cash for unit merger transaction

Audit committee of NYSE-listed company

- conducted internal investigation into potential misconduct by CEO of a public company on behalf of the audit committee

Fortune 50 company

- representing Fortune 50 company in state Attorney General investigation of sales practices

Real estate fund

- conducted internal investigation into allegations of self-dealing by company executive

Public Oil Field Service Company

- conducted internal investigation into allegations of potential US export control violations

Real estate executive

- representing executive of Dallas-based REIT in parallel SEC and DOJ securities fraud investigations*

Investment fund

- conducted internal investigation into alleged related party transactions involving fund's investment advisor*

Public company CEO

- represented CEO of public company in SEC investigation into alleged accounting and disclosure fraud; client not charged in suit against other executives*

Monitorship

- led the court-appointed monitor team for an international company after it was found guilty of violating US export control laws*

Financial advisor

- represented captive financial advisor of multi-billion university endowment in SEC investigation into potential pay-to-play violations*

Broker-dealers and investment advisers

- represented broker-dealers, investment advisers and registered representatives in FINRA and SEC investigations including alleged anti-money laundering violations, unsuitability, issues involving structured and complex products and matters stemming from compliance inspections*

Audit committee of nonprofit organization

- led internal investigation for audit committee of high-profile, Dallas-based nonprofit, leading to discovery of accounting fraud and fraudulent reports to board of directors*

Public oil and gas company

- internal investigation of potential insider trading for one of the largest independent liquid terminal and pipeline operators in the United States*

Foreign government-owned oil company

- represented foreign government-owned oil company in FCPA investigation stemming from Panama Papers*

Oilfield service company

- represented US-based oil services company in FCPA investigation by DOJ and SEC; no charges brought against client*

Public REIT

- defended a REIT in an SEC inquiry regarding marketing practices, resulting in the SEC closing the inquiry after attorney presentation; counseled the REIT in developing new policies and procedures relating to the preparation, approval and dissemination of marketing and advertising material*

Oil and gas executive

- defended an oil and gas executive in SEC investigation into alleged insider trading*

Energy public company

- represented public energy company in Reg FD SEC investigation; obtained close out of investigation*

Public company executive

- represented executive in audit committee investigation; client cleared of involvement in CEO's wrongdoing*

FCPA and export controls compliance

- evaluated and designed FCPA and export control compliance programs and related professional training programs for public and private companies to address overseas investments, operations and marketing activities*

Ashford Hospitality Prime, Inc.

- obtained a federal court injunction on behalf of NYSE-listed REIT against hedge fund in proxy fight, which was upheld on appeal. See *Ashford Hospitality Prime, Inc. v. Sessa Capital (Master), L.P.* *

Broker-dealer executive

- overturned the lifetime bar of a 30-year securities professional by successfully challenging the constitutionality of SEC administrative proceedings*

Insurance company

- represented an insurance industry client in a multi-billion dollar securities class action, a separate receivership claim, numerous related lawsuits filed in both state and federal court, a federal multi-district litigation (MDL) proceeding and appellate proceedings in the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and the US Supreme Court. See *Chadbourn & Parke LLP, et al. v. Troice*, 134 S. Ct. 1058 (2014); *Rishmague v. Winter*, 616 Fed. Appx. 138 (5th Cir. 2015)*

Financial advisors

- represented more than 100 financial advisors in federal court litigation arising from an alleged Ponzi scheme and in related appellate proceedings at the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and the US Supreme Court. See *Janvey v. Alguire*, 539 Fed. Appx. 478 (5th Cir. 2013), cert. denied, 134 S. Ct. 2871 (2014)*

Executives, financial advisors and SEC-registered issuers

- defended public company executives, financial advisors and SEC-registered issuers in SEC federal court litigation and injunctive actions*

City of Lewisville, Texas

- counsel to plan and execute the annexation of the Castle Hills development, which encompassed nearly 3,000 acres and approximately 18,000 residents and added nearly \$3 billion in property value to the City

* *Work completed prior to Bracewell*

Credentials

Education

- Baylor Law School, J.D., 2001, *magna cum laude*
- Texas Christian University, B.B.A., 1998, *cum laude*

Bar Admissions

- Texas

Affiliations

- Dallas Bar Foundation
- Dallas Association of Young Lawyers Foundation, Fellow
- Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program
- Rockwall Economic Development Corporation, Board of Directors
- Dallas Summer Musicals, Advisory Board, Finance Committee, Audit Committee

Recognition

Chambers USA

- Texas Litigation: White Collar Crime & Government Investigations, 2022 – 2025

The Legal 500 United States

- Dispute Resolution – Corporate Investigations and White-Collar Criminal Defense, 2023 – 2025
- Securities Shareholder Litigation, 2015
- Securities Litigation Defense, 2016 – 2017, 2025

BL Rankings

- *Best Lawyers*, Criminal Defense: White-Collar, 2024 – 2025

Lawdragon Inc.

- *Lawdragon 500 Leading Litigators in America*, White Collar and Investigations, 2024 – 2025

Thomson Reuters

- *Texas Super Lawyers*, 2016 – 2020, 2022 – 2023
- *Texas Super Lawyers*, Rising Star, 2006 – 2009, 2011 – 2015

D Magazine

- "Best Lawyers" in Dallas, White-Collar Criminal Defense, 2024 – 2025;
Securities Litigation and Enforcement, 2016 – 2018, 2021 – 2022

Baylor Law School

- *Baylor Law Review*, Assistant Managing Editor, Executive Editor, Notes and Comments Editor

Resources

The Supreme Court Affirms, but Limits, the SEC's Disgorgement Power

Update

Quick Hit: Russian Sanctions and Cybersecurity

Podcast

The Changing Landscape for Government Contracts and Government Investigations

Podcast

Welcome to the Bracewell Sidebar

Podcast

When the Government Comes Knocking – A Conversation With Jeff Vaden

Podcast

ESG, What Can This Be? A Conversation With Bracewell's Rachel Goldman

Podcast

Cyberattacks and What to Do About Them With David Springer

Podcast

Demystifying Congressional Investigations: A Conversation With Stephen Braga

Podcast

Diving Into Ransomware

Podcast

Unraveling Export Controls and Trade Sanctions: What Businesses Need to Know

Podcast

Biggest Stories of 2021

Podcast

The Risky Business of International Projects

Podcast

Trial Recap – <i>US v. Elizabeth Holmes</i>

Podcast

Know Your Client, Know Your Customer, Know Your Counterparty Practice

Podcast

Sanctions and Export Controls

Video

Navigating Domestic and Cross-Border Data Privacy Risks With Lucy Tyson and Brittney Justice

Podcast

The Shadow Path

Podcast

Keeping Pace With the Evolving Sanctions Enforcement Regime

Podcast

Quick Hit: Search Warrants

Podcast

Part 1-Classified Information in Federal Criminal Litigation and the Need to Know With Sid Kamaraju

Podcast

Part 2 – Classified Information in Federal Criminal Litigation and the Need to Know With Sid Kamaraju

Podcast

Assessing Risk in a Rapidly Evolving Digital and Physical World With Brian Mich of Control Risks

Podcast

Cooperation Credit: What Are the Rules Now?

Podcast

Behind the Scenes of US Banking: Regulators, Challenges and the Future, Part II

Podcast

Behind the Scenes of US Banking: Regulators, Challenges and the Future, Part I

Podcast

ESG Seminar: ESG Fundamentals and Litigation

Video

Wearing Many Hats

Podcast

Cryptocurrency for Beginners

Podcast

Caging the Crypto Beast

Podcast

Revisiting Force Majeure and Other Contractual Considerations Amid COVID-19

Update

Introducing the Bracewell Sidebar Podcast

Podcast

SEC Sends Warning Shot on COVID-Impact Disclosures

Update

SEC Underscores ESG Disclosure and Compliance Priorities

Update

New SEC Task Force Confirms Commitment to ESG Focus

Update

Biden Administration Prioritizes Increased and Broadened Anti-Corruption Enforcement

Update

DOJ's Torpedoes Are in the Water: Be Your Own Monitor, or One Will Be Appointed for You

Update

SEC Is Still Cyber Serious About Disclosures

Update

President Biden Signs Executive Order that Likely Will Lead to Greater Scrutiny of Data Privacy in Corporate Transactions

Update

SEC Gets Cyber-Serious About Disclosures

Update

2021 Year-in-Review – U.S. State Privacy Legislation

Update

Colorado Privacy Act: New Protections for Consumers in the Centennial State

Update

Virginia Is For [Data Privacy] Lovers: Introduction to Virginia's New Consumer Protection Law

Update

SEC Continues Its Focus on Executive Compensation

Update

The SEC Joins DOJ's War on Corporate Offenders

Update

Government Enforcement and Investigations Year-In-Review: The Administration Has Moved Its Pieces into Place

Update

CPRA Countdown: It's Time to Brush Up on California's Latest Data Privacy Law

Update

Fifth Circuit's Constitutional Carve-Back of the SEC's ALJ Enforcement Proceedings Likely to Lead to More Federal Court Cases

Update

DOJ to Companies: If You Step Up & Own Up, You Might Not Have to Pay Up

Update

Bittrex, the Crypto Platform Whose Motto Is to "Trade Beyond the Trend," Runs Into OFAC's Trend of Strict US Sanctions Enforcement

Update

DOJ to Prosecutors: Think Twice and Ask Permission Before Charging

Update

Navigating Compliance Trends With a Roadmap to a Corporate Culture of Integrity

Article

Supreme Court Declares SEC Lacks In-House Authority to Impose Civil Penalties

Update

Creating an Army of In-House Investigators

Update

Florida Ruling May Undermine FCA Whistleblowers' Authority

Article

Biden Administration Issues Sweeping Salvo of Sanctions Against the Russian Energy Sector

Update

White Collar Litigation With Matthew Nielsen

Podcast

DOJ Alert: New White-Collar Priorities and Stronger Incentives to Self-Report

Update

Publications & Speeches

- "The Evolution of Integrity and Compliance: Trends in Regulatory Guidance and the Global Compliance Ecosystem," EY Integrity & Compliance Seminar, February 27, 2025.
- "Florida Ruling May Undermine FCA Whistleblowers' Authority," *Law360*, October 11, 2024.
- "WEBCAST: CARES Act Enforcement," DC Bar, October 22, 2020.