

Stephen L. Braga

Partner

stephen.braga@bracewell.com

WASHINGTON, DC
+1.202.828.5840



Stephen Braga has over 40 years of experience representing individuals and companies in their most important government enforcement matters. Whether it be handling sensitive criminal investigations or litigating the fall-out from such investigations in court, Steve has the sound judgment clients need to guide them carefully through such difficulties.

Over the course of his career, he has played a leading role in many of the most high-profile white collar cases and investigations in Washington, DC. This work has included the representation of numerous Executive Branch and Congressional officials in addition to private individual and corporate clients. In the course of this work, as exemplified below, Steve has represented numerous Executive Branch and Congressional officials in addition to private individual and corporate clients. Other career highlights include acting as lead counsel in securing the release in two separate high-profile representations of men who had spent decades in prison for wrongful murder convictions: Marty Tankleff, who was exonerated on an appeal argued by Steve, and Damien Echols, a member of the “West Memphis Three,” who was freed from death row on a deal negotiated by Steve.

Steve was elected a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers in 2008.

Practices

[Government Contracts](#)

[Government Enforcement & Investigations](#)

[Litigation](#)

[False Claims Act](#)

Experience

Poultry processing company

- represented company and its senior management in an industry-wide price-fixing and bid-rigging investigation by the Antitrust Division of the US Department of Justice

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Energy services company

- represented company's former country manager for China in an FCPA investigation by the Fraud Section of the US Department of Justice and the Securities & Exchange Commission
- represented technical manager in an FCPA investigation of the company's operations in Vietnam being conducted by the Fraud Section of the US Department of Justice and the Securities Exchange Commission

Energy company officers and employees

- represented four officers and employees of a Fortune 200 Oil Field Services Company in FCPA investigations arising out of Africa and Russia*

Brazilian CEO

- represented the CEO of leading Brazilian corporation in global FCPA investigation*

Harry I. Martin, Jr.

- defended Intelligent Decisions' Owner and Chief Executive Officer Harry I. Martin, Jr. against federal program bribery and fraud charges*

Officers of Japanese shipping corporation

- represented two officers of Japanese shipping corporation in antitrust price-fixing investigation by the US Department of Justice Antitrust Division*

Korean employee

- represented employee of Korean corporation in federal industrial espionage investigation*

Patricia Cornwell

- represented author Patricia Cornwell in a Federal Election Commission investigation of presidential campaign contributions*

Pharmaceutical company

- represented Fortune 100 pharmaceutical company in internal investigations of FCPA allegations in multiple countries around the world*
- defended Fortune 100 pharmaceutical company in civil false claims act litigation concerning the off-label marketing of certain drugs*

Michael Scanlon

- defended public relations executive Michael Scanlon against criminal proceedings arising from the Jack Abramoff lobbying scandal, including related Senate and civil proceedings*

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John T. Korsmo

- defended Chairman of the Federal Housing Finance Board John T. Korsmo against federal false statements charges*

Fortune 50 company

- represented Fortune 50 company in internal investigations of FCPA allegations in China and the Philippines*

Larry D. Thompson

- defended Deputy Attorney General Larry D. Thompson against post-911 civil litigation concerning the terrorist rendition program*

Ricardo Sanchez

- defended Lieutenant General Ricardo Sanchez against civil claims arising from the Abu Ghraib prison scandal*

Enron employee

- represented Enron employee in connection with the federal investigation of the company*

White House staff

- represented White House Travel Office Director Catherine Cornelius in the Travelgate investigation; White House Special Assistant to the President and Director of White House Operations Janet Green in the White House Database investigation; and White House Assistant to the President for Management and Administration Jodie Torkelson in the Lewinsky grand jury investigation*

Defense contractor

- represented Fortune 100 defense contractor in SEC accounting fraud and revenue recognition investigation*

Maryland politician

- represented former Maryland lieutenant governor in a federal grand jury investigation of state government spending*

Marathon Oil

- defended Marathon Oil in class action seeking hundreds of millions of dollars in product liability damages for the corrosive effects of allegedly defective gasoline on underground storage tanks in West Virginia*

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Dominic F. Antonelli, Jr.

- represented Washington, DC real estate magnate Dominic F. Antonelli, Jr. in federal bank and bankruptcy fraud investigations*

Mark Nathanson

- defended California Coastal Commissioner Mark Nathanson against federal extortion and criminal RICO charges*

Rick Hendrick

- defended NASCAR owner and Honda mega-dealer Rick Hendrick against commercial bribery charges*

ABC and Chris Wallace

- defended ABC and Chris Wallace at trial against defamation claims arising from a “Primetime Live” news broadcast*

* *Work completed prior to Bracewell*

Credentials

Education

- Georgetown University Law Center, J.D., 1981, *magna cum laude*
- Fairfield University, B.A., 1978, *cum laude*

Bar Admissions

- District of Columbia

Affiliations

- American College of Trial Lawyers, Fellow, 2008–Present
- Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project, Board of Directors, 2011–2017; President, 2015–2017
- Proclaim Justice Wrongful Conviction Organization, Board of Directors, 2014–2018
- American Bar Association

Recognition

Chambers USA

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

BRACEWELL

The Legal 500 United States

- Dispute Resolution: Corporate Investigations and White Collar Criminal Defense, 2020 – 2025 (Leading Partner, 2023 – 2025)

BL Rankings

- *Best Lawyers*, Bet-the-Company Litigation, 2010 – 2025
- *Best Lawyers*, Commercial Litigation, 2007 – 2025
- *Best Lawyers*, Criminal Defense: General Practice, 2010 – 2025
- *Best Lawyers*, Criminal Defense: White Collar, 2006 – 2025
- *Best Lawyers*, Legal Malpractice Law: Defendants, 2011 – 2025
- *Best Lawyers*, Litigation – Regulatory Enforcement (SEC, Telecom, Energy), 2011 – 2025
- *Best Lawyers*, Litigation – Securities, 2011 – 2025
- *Best Lawyers*, Professional Malpractice Law – Defendants, 2011 – 2025
- *Best Lawyers*, Washington, DC Lawyer of the Year, Bet-the-Company Litigation, 2023

Lawdragon Inc.

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

Fairfield University

- Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree, 2018

National Law Journal

- Pro Bono Hotlist, 2012

Death Penalty Focus Abolition Award, 2012

New York State Gideon Champion of Justice Award, 2008

US District Court for the District of Columbia

- Law Clerk

Resources

Demystifying Congressional Investigations: A Conversation With Stephen Braga

Podcast

White Collar Crime, West Memphis and Warlocks: An Interview With Stephen Braga

Podcast

Antitrust Enforcement in Federal Procurement – DOJ’s New Lawsuit to Block a Merger Suggests that Things May Be Getting Interesting

Update

The ENRC Saga – Not Just a UK Concern

Blog Post

Is it a Tip or a Bribe? Supreme Court Narrows Scope of Anti-Corruption Statutes for State and Local Officials

Update

Creating an Army of In-House Investigators

Update

“No Harm, No Foul”: Who Will Referee Future White-Collar Prosecutions?

Update

How High Court May Rule in First Step Act Resentencing Case

Article

Publications & Speeches

- "How High Court May Rule in First Step Act Resentencing Case," *Law360*, February 3, 2025.