



Robert S. Silverblatt

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Rob Silverblatt is a partner in the firm's White Collar Defense and Investigations practice group. A former Department of Justice trial attorney, Rob has substantial experience serving as lead counsel on legally and factually complex cases.

Rob represents companies and individuals in matters involving a variety of regulatory and enforcement agencies, including the Department of Justice and the Securities and Exchange Commission. Rob also has an active congressional investigations practice and assists clients with preparation for hearings and briefings and with responses to requests for documents and information. Additionally, drawing upon his experience as a litigator at the Tax Division of the United States Department of Justice, Rob represents clients in an array of tax controversies, including Internal Revenue Service investigations and tax litigation.

Rob's experience includes:

- Litigating against the government in federal court and Tax Court on issues including wire fraud, securities fraud, and tax deductions.
- Assisting public and private company CEOs and other executives in preparing for interviews and testimony, including in front of Congress and grand juries.
- Conducting internal investigations for companies and assisting them with identification and remediation of legal and reputational risks.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Rob began his career in 2013 as an associate in the firm's Government Enforcement practice group. He represented individuals and companies in front of the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority.

Between 2015 and 2016, Rob clerked for Judge Thomas L. Ambro on the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Between 2016 and 2021, Rob was a trial attorney at the Tax Division of the United States Department of Justice. While there, Rob litigated cases in federal district and bankruptcy courts, with subjects including tax shelters, fraudulent transfers, undisclosed foreign bank accounts, injunctive relief against tax return preparers, and alter ego liability. Rob handled all aspects of litigation, including depositions, trials, and evidentiary hearings.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Rob received Outstanding Attorney awards from the Department of Justice in 2018, 2019, and 2020.

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Civic Director, Council for Court Excellence
- Fellow, American Bar Foundation

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Panelist, ABA May Tax Meeting, 2023

EDUCATION

- J.D., Georgetown University Law Center, 2013 (*magna cum laude*, *Order of the Coif*)
- B.A., Tufts University, 2009 (*magna cum laude*)

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of District of Columbia
- Bar of Virginia
- United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
- United States District Court for the District of Columbia

LANGUAGES

- Spanish

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP POWERED BY HUB

- 15 March 2024, Dialing for Dollars: US Department of Justice Announces New Whistleblower Pilot Program
- 2 November 2021, DOJ Announces Major Changes to Corporate Criminal Enforcement Policies

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- "DOJ Announces Major Changes to Corporate Criminal Enforcement Policies," *Westlaw Today powered by Reuters*, 8 November 2021

NEWS & EVENTS

- 2 January 2024, K&L Gates Names Nearly 30 Partners, Government Affairs Advisors Across Firm

MEDIA MENTIONS

- US Seeks \$18.4M FBAR Penalty from Texaco Heiress' Estate
- Rough Day for 'Chip' Fattah in Return to Court
- Florida Tax Preparer Barred Forever Over Fraudulent Returns
- Biz Owner Siphoned Funds in \$2.8M Tax Row, 11th Circ. Finds

AREAS OF FOCUS

- White Collar Defense and Investigations
- U.S. Congressional Investigations

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

DOJ Investigations and Litigation

- Represented a global public company in criminal investigation by DOJ involving alleged violations of the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.
- Represented an international aviation industry service provider in False Claims Act investigation conducted by DOJ.
- Represented a former financial company CEO in wire fraud case brought by DOJ.
- Represented public company CEO in grand jury testimony in investigation by DOJ's Environment and Natural Resources Division.

Congressional Investigations

- Represented an online platform in matters before multiple House and Senate committees.
- Represented a public affairs company in the House Natural Resources Committee inquiry into energy industry public relations campaigns.

- Represented a nonprofit foundation in Senate Commerce Committee and House Committee on Oversight and Accountability inquiries related to energy policy advocacy.
- Represented a retirement system in an ESG investing inquiry by House Judiciary Committee.

Tax Controversies

- Obtained full IRS concession in Tax Court litigation on behalf of partners of mortgage business in dispute over deductibility of settlement with DOJ.
- Represented an engineering firm in IRS investigation into promotion of tax credits.
- Represented a horticultural company in response to IRS requests pursuant to a tax treaty with a foreign government.
- Represented individuals in IRS criminal investigation related to bank transfers.

SEC Investigations and Litigation

- Represented an individual in SEC securities fraud case in federal court in Boston; successfully opposed SEC's motion for summary judgment.
- Represented an investment banker in SEC case alleging sale of unregistered securities and securities fraud in federal court in New York.
- Represented an individual in federal securities fraud investigation related to cryptocurrency trading and promotion conducted by the SEC.

Internal Investigations

- Conducted an internal investigation for a multinational luxury fashion brand holding company related to sensitive matters involving legal and reputational risk.
- Conducted an internal investigation for a national retail chain related to compliance with immigration laws.

Inspector General Investigations

- Represented a Fortune 500 multinational mobile payment company in Small Business Administration inspector general investigation related to CARES Act stimulus program funding.
- Represented an international aviation industry service provider in connection with Treasury inspector general inquiries related to pandemic relief funding.
- Represented a property tax service provider in Social Security Administration inspector general inquiry regarding use of agency's logo.