Steptoe’s white-collar defense practice is among the most well-respected and preeminent in the United States. For decades, we built this reputation by defending individuals and companies in the nation’s highest-profile criminal prosecutions and investigations. The group is known for its active trial caseload, and we regularly take tough criminal cases to court and win. Steptoe lawyers find creative solutions to difficult problems and have guided many clients to favorable resolutions before a criminal indictment. We also conduct internal investigations on behalf of public and private companies, excelling at conducting complex, multijurisdictional investigations while maintaining our focus on the key issues under review.

Steptoe has garnered many accolades, including recognition by both Chambers USA and The Legal 500 as a top-ranked practice in this field. We were named The National Law Journal’s Washington Litigation Department of the Year in White-Collar Crime in 2014, 2017, and 2018, and received the Law360 White-Collar “Group of the Year” three times. We were also ranked in Global Investigations Review (GIR) 100 as one of the Top 30 Firms for Investigations Worldwide in 2015-2019. Our team includes Reid Weingarten, called the “star of the criminal defense bar” by Chambers, and widely recognized as one of the premier white-collar defense lawyers in the country. Many of our litigators served in government with distinction before joining the firm, including several former US federal prosecutors with extensive trial experience. Our team includes several Fellows of the American College of Trial Lawyers, and our lawyers are consistently ranked as top criminal defense attorneys by Chambers, Best Lawyers in America, Euromoney’s Expert Guides, Legal 500, Super Lawyers, and Washingtonian magazine.

Noteworthy

- Chambers Global, FCPA, US (2020)
- Legal 500 UK, Fraud: White-Collar Crime (advice to individuals) (2021)
Individual Representations

Steptoe aggressively defends individuals in government and internal investigations, trials, sentencings, and appeals nationwide and abroad. We have experience in all areas of white-collar criminal enforcement, including securities and accounting fraud, public corruption, Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, healthcare fraud, FDA violations, antitrust, tax, false claims, export controls and sanctions, environmental, perjury and false statements, and obstruction.

Our notable recent individual representations include:

- **United States v. Richard Ireland.** Steptoe obtained a Rule 29 judgment of acquittal on all counts for Dick Ireland, a Philadelphia businessman accused in a “pay to play” case of bribing former Pennsylvania State Treasurer Rob McCord to obtain asset manager contracts. Despite McCord’s guilty plea and cooperation, and dozens of hours of undercover recordings, the judge acquitted Ireland at the close of the government’s case, commending Steptoe’s performance as “some of the best trial work we have ever had the privilege to see in this or any courtroom.”

- **United States v. William Facteau.** Steptoe obtained an acquittal for ex-Accilent CEO William Facteau of felony fraud charges brought by the government in an indictment returned in 2015. The jury unanimously acquitted the defendant of all 14 felony charges brought by the government: one count of conspiracy, three counts of wire fraud, and 10 counts of felony adulteration and misbranding.

- **United States v. David Rainey.** Steptoe secured an acquittal for David Rainey, the highest ranking BP executive charged in connection with the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, on a false statements charge tried in New Orleans, Louisiana. After the jury returned its not guilty verdict following two hours of deliberations, the judge stated on the public record that he “agreed with the verdict” and believed it was “a correct verdict based on the evidence.” The acquittal followed the court’s dismissal, on the first day of trial, of a related obstruction of Congress charge, after extensive pre-trial litigation in which the Steptoe defense team successfully argued that selective invocation of the Speech or Debate Clause privilege by congressional witnesses interfered with Mr. Rainey’s right to present a defense.

- **United States v. Lauren Stevens.** Steptoe obtained a Rule 29 judgment of acquittal on all counts for Lauren Stevens, former general counsel of GlaxoSmithKline, who was accused of obstructing a federal inquiry and making false statements to investigators related to an FDA investigation of the drug Wellbutrin SR. The acquittal came after the court found that it would have been a “miscarriage of justice” to permit the case against Stevens to go to the jury.

- **In re Special Proceedings.** Steptoe defended a DOJ trial attorney in the Public Integrity Section, one of six federal prosecutors involved in the prosecution of Alaska Senator Ted Stevens on corruption charges. Following a three-year investigation by a Special Prosecutor appointed to investigate potential obstruction of justice, and a parallel ethics investigation by DOJ’s Office of Professional Responsibility, our client was cleared of any wrongdoing.

Corporate Representations

Steptoe has represented some of the largest public and private companies in the world in major government and internal investigations. Through decades of experience, Steptoe has earned a national reputation as a go-to firm for boards, audit committees, special committees, companies, and other institutions in need of outside counsel to handle government investigations, sensitive internal investigations, and compliance reviews.

Our notable recent corporate representations include:

- **United States v. Volkswagen AG.** Steptoe represented Volkswagen AG in the diesel emissions case and successfully negotiated the largest corporate criminal and regulatory settlement in recent history.

- **Pilot Flying J.** Steptoe conducted an independent investigation for a Special Committee of the Board of Directors of Pilot Flying J regarding allegations that the country’s largest travel center chain and diesel fuel provider defrauded some of its trucking company customers.

- **United States v. Control Components, Inc.** Steptoe represented UK conglomerate IMI plc, and its US subsidiary Control Components Inc., in a global FCPA investigation. After a self-disclosure and extensive cooperation, Steptoe successfully obtained a declination for IMI and negotiated a plea agreement for CCI that included a substantially below-Guidelines fine amount.

- **United States v. Japan Airlines.** Steptoe represented Japan Airlines in the air cargo cartel investigation and successfully negotiated a guilty plea for the company.
Representative Matters

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- **Pilot Flying J.** Steptoe conducted an independent investigation for a Special Committee of the Board of Directors of Pilot Flying J regarding allegations that the country’s largest travel center chain and diesel fuel provider defrauded some of its trucking company customers.

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*Asian Legal Business* Features Wendy Wysong in Law Firm Leaders Profile
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November 3, 2020
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Quarterly Investigations Update
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