



Elizabeth F Bernhardt
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Practice Areas

White Collar Defense and Regulation, Internal Investigations, Regulatory Enforcement, Criminal Defense, Litigation and Arbitration, Securities Litigation, Appellate Practice, Aviation Litigation

Education

Columbia Law School (J.D. 1988); Columbia University (Ph.D. 1977; M.A. 1969 (English)); Barnard College (B.A. 1966)

Bar Admissions

New York State; U.S. District Courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York; U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit; U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit; U.S. Supreme Court

Elizabeth Bernhardt's practice focuses on white collar criminal and regulatory defense. She has represented clients in investigations by United States Attorney's Offices, the SEC, FINRA, New York District Attorney's Offices, the Department of Justice, the CFTC, and the New York State Attorney General's Office. Elizabeth also frequently advises clients in the context of internal investigations. She has argued over 60 appeals in state and federal courts. As an adjunct lecturer, she teaches Legal Practice at Columbia Law School.

Prior to joining the firm, Elizabeth practiced with Simpson Thacher & Bartlett, served as Supervisor in the Appeals Bureau of the Bronx County District Attorney's Office, and taught at Fordham University School of Law. She has served on many boards and committees, including the New York State Continuing Legal Education Board. She is proficient in Spanish.

Securities and Regulatory Enforcement

Represented bank executive in SEC investigation of alleged bank fraud.

Represented employees of clearing house in SEC investigation of alleged Reg SHO violations.

Represented controller of S&P 500 company in SEC fraud investigation and class action securities litigation.

Represented fund and its chief executive in SEC investigation of alleged fraud and rules violations.

Represented investor in Department of Justice and SEC investigations of alleged violations of trading rules.

Defended stockbrokers accused of rules violations in FINRA proceedings.

Represented chief financial officer of Fortune 20 company in Department of Justice and SEC investigations and class action securities litigation relating to allegations of insider trading and alleged earnings management.

Represented securities analyst before the New York Stock Exchange in connection with Exchange's investigation of possible insider trading and rules violations.

Negotiated advantageous consent agreement and a non-prosecution agreement for a business executive in an SEC and criminal fraud investigation involving alleged channel stuffing and fraud.

Represented business executives in SEC investigation in connection with allegations of aiding and abetting securities fraud.

Represented corporate manager and whistle-blower in connection with New York State Attorney General's fraud investigation.

Represented fund executive in SEC investigation of alleged misrepresentations.

White Collar Defense

Represented securities broker in Department of Justice securities fraud prosecution.

Represented insurance agency and executives in Department of Justice insurance fraud investigation.

Represented business owner in Department of Justice investigation into alleged commercial fraud.

Represented stock broker convicted of securities fraud in plea and sentencing phases of case.

Represented business owner convicted of white collar fraud in sentencing phase of case.

Negotiated advantageous cooperation agreement for brokerage employee in criminal case.

Represented company executives in connection with Department of Justice antitrust investigation.

Represented company executives in connection with Department of Justice fraud investigation.

Represented witnesses in Department of Justice investigations and trials.

Activities and Affiliations

Member, The Association of the Bar of the City of New York

Member, New York State Bar Association (Committee on Court of Appellate Jurisdiction)

Former Member, New York State CLE Board