



George M. Karavetsos

Partner

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George M. Karavetsos joins DLA Piper from the FDA, where he served as director of FDA's Office of Criminal Investigations. As director, he led more than 300 federal law enforcement agents and administrative personnel in the investigation of criminal violations of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and other relevant federal statutes.

Before joining the FDA, George spent more than 12 years as an assistant US attorney in the Southern District of Florida, rising to executive assistant US attorney, the third-highest position in the office. George also was a deputy chief in the major crimes and narcotics sections, and chief of the narcotics section. There, he successfully tried numerous complex white collar and international narcotics and money laundering cases.

Previously, George was an assistant chief counsel in the FDA's Office of the Chief Counsel (OCC). While at OCC, he worked on complex regulatory and criminal enforcement issues involving the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. Additionally, he served as an assistant district attorney in Massachusetts where he tried hundreds of criminal cases.

RELATED SERVICES

- Litigation, Arbitration and Investigations
- FDA
- White Collar and Corporate Crime

CREDENTIALS

Admissions

- Florida
- Massachusetts

Prior Experience

George most recently served as the director of the US Food and Drug Administration's Office of Criminal Investigations, where he helped develop FDA enforcement initiatives. He also oversaw more than 300 agents and administrative personnel in the investigation of criminal violations of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and related laws.

Prior to his role with the FDA, George spent more than 12 years as an assistant US attorney in the Southern District of Florida, rising to executive assistant US attorney, the third-highest position in the office. He was responsible for prosecuting complex

white collar and international narcotics and money laundering cases.

Recognitions

- Recipient of Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's 2nd Annual 40 under 40 Outstanding Lawyers of Miami-Dade County - 2010
- Recipient of the United States Coast Guard's Meritorious Public Service Award - 2009

Education

- J.D., Suffolk University Law School
- B.A., Virginia Military Institute
with distinction

MEDIA MENTIONS

In 2016, George represented the FDA in an interview on the CBS program *The Doctors*, commenting on the dangers of counterfeit drugs and tainted dietary supplements. Also that year, he was interviewed on CNBC's "*American Greed: Vanity and Greed: Deadly Beauty*," episode 114 of season 10.

INSIGHTS

Publications

COVID-19: As diagnostic companies and laboratories ask "how can I help?" FDA responds with unprecedented regulatory flexibility, seeking to achieve more rapid testing capacity in the US

18 March 2020

Options expand for life science, healthcare and other stakeholders.

New Acting FDA Commissioner Sharpless: 4 policy issues to watch

9 APR 2019

A look at four pressing, high-profile issues facing the new acting FDA commissioner.

- "Pharmacovigilance in the USA," *Global USA*, November 14, 2018
- "Life Sciences: Compliance and enforcement in the USA," *Global USA*, November 14, 2018
- "Clinical trials in the USA," *Global USA*, November 14, 2018
- "Life Sciences: product regulation and liability in the USA," *Global USA*, November 14, 2018
- "The Ugly Side of Beauty Bargains," *Cosmopolitan*, February 2018
- "Proposed bill could fuel the opioid epidemic," *The Hill*, October 30, 2017
- "Former Head Of FDA-OCI: 'Proposed Drug Importation Law Will Worsen U.S. Opioid Epidemic,'" *Partnership for Safe Medicines*, July 11, 2017
- "Keep U.S. supply of prescription drugs uncorrupted," *Miami Herald*, May 6, 2017
- "First Circuit affirms Pfizer victory in False Claims Act case," *DLA Piper*, February 1, 2017

Events

- Speaker, "Behind the Curtain at FDA and DOJ: Investigation and Prosecution of Quality Matters," November 14, 2017
- Speaker, "The Case Against Prescription Drug Importation," April 19, 2017
- Speaker, "Risking Safety at All Costs: How Prescription Drug Importation is Dangerous Policy," April 4, 2017
- Speaker, "Supply Chain Security," INTERPOL World 2015, Singapore, 2015
- Speaker, "Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Integrity," Fall Meeting of National Association of Attorneys General, Charleston, South Carolina, 2015
- Keynote Speaker, "Food and Drug Law Institute's Enforcement," Litigation, and Compliance Conference, Washington, DC, 2015
- Interview, "Goals as Director of FDA's Office of Criminal Investigations," The Partnership for Safemedicines, 2015
- Lecturer, "Search and Seizure Issues in Narcotics Cases," National Advocacy Center, Columbia, South Carolina, 2012
- Lecturer, "FDA Office of Criminal Investigations New Agent Training," Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Charleston, South Carolina, 2012
- Lecturer, "FDA Office of Criminal Investigations New Agent Training," Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Charleston, South Carolina, 2011
- Lecturer, "FDA Office of Criminal Investigations, New Agent Training," Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Glynco, Georgia, 2008

NEWS

MEDIA MENTIONS

- "FDA gets tough on food safety following outbreaks," *Bloomberg Law*, April 3, 2018