



Corporate and Securities Litigation

DLA Piper is a leader in securities litigation defense. We represent public corporations, individual officers and directors of corporations, underwriters, accounting firms, and investment advisers in every area of securities litigation. Our practice is national, but we have a substantial presence in the busiest jurisdictions for privately litigated securities claims, including Silicon Valley and New York.

When securities litigation arises in the context of a broader corporate crisis, we work closely with our white collar and securities enforcement teams to assist clients in related civil and criminal investigations, enforcement proceedings, congressional inquiries and criminal trials.

SECURITIES CLASS ACTIONS

In the litigation of securities fraud claims under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and claims for violations of the Securities Act of 1933 in connection with public offerings, we have an outstanding track record in obtaining dismissal at the pleadings stage before the costs and intrusions of discovery.

We have defended cases resulting in landmark decisions, including the first reported defense win under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, *Zeid v. Kimberley (Firefox)*, 930 F.Supp. 431 (N.D. Cal. 1996), and the first reported appellate decision affirming the dismissal of an accounting fraud case under that statute, *In re The Vantive Corporation Securities Litigation*, 283 F.3d 1079 (9th Cir. 2002).

In addition to defending claims of securities fraud, our securities litigators have had extensive experience and success in defending non-fraud based securities claims registration statements in public and private offerings, where scienter is not an element of the claim. In *Krim v. pcOrder.com, Inc.*, 402 F.3d 489 (5th Cir. 2005), we obtained a groundbreaking decision strictly limiting the potential claimants who can pursue a class claim under section 11 of the Securities Act of 1933 that has been followed in jurisdictions around the nation.

In cases that have not been dismissed, our trial lawyers have the experience and creativity necessary to resolve these matters to our clients' satisfaction, whether by obtaining summary judgment, by defeating a motion for class certification, or by trying the matter to verdict.

STOCKHOLDER DERIVATIVE AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE CLAIMS

KEY CONTACTS

John J. Clarke, Jr.

Partner
New York
T: +1 212 335 4920

James D. Mathias

Partner
Baltimore (Mount
Washington)
T: +1 410 580 4208

RELATED SERVICES

- Litigation, Arbitration and Investigations

We regularly defend stockholder derivative lawsuits and actions asserting claims of breach of fiduciary duty against corporations, limited liability companies, partnerships, and their directors, officers and managers.

Lawyers in our office in Wilmington, Delaware regularly defend these actions in the Delaware courts making us one of the few international firms that can provide such onestop representation in this important jurisdiction. Beyond Delaware, however, we have corporate governance litigators with deep knowledge of the corporate laws of other US jurisdictions under which large numbers of businesses are organized, including California, Maryland, Massachusetts and New York.

We advise boards of directors on the complex issues they must address when a derivative claim is asserted. We help directors understand whether a stockholder derivative claim is a corporate asset that should be pursued or a strike suit that represents a potential drain on corporate assets and management attention.

Our experience in stockholder derivative litigation also enables us to coordinate the defense of derivative claims asserted in conjunction with claims of alleged securities fraud.

SECURITIES ENFORCEMENT

Securities litigation often is accompanied by investigations and enforcement proceedings brought by the SEC, the Department of Justice or self-regulatory organizations. We regularly assist our clients in formal and informal government investigations, enforcement proceedings, internal investigations and congressional and grand jury proceedings. We apply our experience and judgment to determine whether such actions call for a cooperative approach or a more aggressive strategy. When litigation is necessary and advisable, we have the experience to get results.

We staff multi-faceted matters with experienced lawyers, including securities class action professionals, former federal prosecutors and former enforcement staff from the SEC. Our experience enables us to guide clients through each phase of a matter as regulatory proceedings evolve into civil litigation. Our cohesive, integrated teams ensure that clients are defended on many fronts consistently and simultaneously.

EXPERIENCE

SECURITIES CLASS ACTIONS

- Represented a leading aerospace and defense contractor in consolidated securities and derivative litigation in the Southern District of New York. We obtained dismissal of the stockholder derivative action and, after intensive litigation relating to allegations falsely attributing to a confidential witness, we negotiated a favorable settlement of the related securities class action
- Representing a wireless communications company in a securities action pending in the Southern District of California alleging accounting improprieties and inadequate internal controls
- Representing a mobile services company and related individuals in a securities class action in the Western District of Washington and in related state court stockholder derivative action. After we prevailed on a motion to dismiss the securities class action, the stockholder derivative action was voluntarily dismissed
- Represented multiple US-listed companies with operations in China and their officers and directors as well as underwriters in securities class actions involving allegations of violations of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934 and the Securities Act of 1933
- Representing the underwriters in related class actions in the Southern District of New York and the Northern District of Alabama asserting securities violations in connection with three securities offerings by a large insurance company that is based in New York
- Representing a network equipment company in a securities class action pending in the Southern District of California alleging accounting improprieties and fraud in connection with a secondary offering
- Representing the underwriters in consolidated class actions in the Western District of Oklahoma concerning statements in securities offerings and other filings by an oil and gas exploration company and related royalty trusts
- Represented the former chief executive officer of a government sponsored enterprise in consolidated securities class actions

in the Southern District of New York asserting claims for securities law violations after the enterprise was placed in government conservatorship

- Represented the underwriters in a class action asserting claims based on alleged misstatements and omissions in the registration statement for an offering by a large regional bank holding company of trust preferred securities. The court dismissed the action with prejudice after plaintiffs' misrepresentation of information allegedly provided by a confidential witness was revealed
- Represented one of the world's largest financial institutions in multi-district litigation involving allegations of late trading and market timing in the mutual fund industry, in the District of Maryland Defense of investment advisors in a number of actions throughout the United States asserting claims for purported "death spiral" securities fraud, including a number of actions in which we obtained dismissal of plaintiffs' complaints
- Representing one of the nation's largest homebuilders and several individual officers in a consolidated action asserting claims for securities fraud in the Northern District of Texas

SECURITIES ENFORCEMENT

- Representing the former CEO of a publicly traded utility company in a trial alleging criminal violations of the federal securities laws, resulting in a deadlocked jury
- Representing a former securities trader under allegations of securities fraud, TARP Fraud, and making false statements to the United States government
- Representing the former CFO and general counsel of a public company in an SEC investigation involving alleged accounting improprieties
- Representing the former general counsel of a public company in SEC action and grand jury investigation involving alleged accounting improprieties
- Representing a multinational issuer in SEC, congressional and Department of Justice inquiries, and in related securities class actions filed in the Southern District of New York, arising from a financial restatement
- Representing a former fund manager of a major mutual fund company in investigations and civil litigation relating to alleged market-timing trading in mutual fund shares
- Representing a broker-dealer in investigations by the New York Attorney General and the SEC concerning market timing and after-hours trading in shares of open-end mutual funds
- Representing a brokerage firm in a FINRA investigation of the Association's trade reporting rules
- Representing a former COO and CFO of a public company in investigations by the SEC and a grand jury into alleged violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act
- Representing a corporate officer in an SEC investigation of possible Investment Company Act violations. Although the SEC took action against other officers, it took no action against our client
- Representing an issuer under SEC investigation regarding MD&A disclosures. After presentation to SEC staff, the matter was closed with no action
- Representing an issuer in a NASDAQ delisting inquiry, in which the delisting panel granted our client an exception to listing requirements which permitted it to execute transactions that brought it back into compliance

INSIGHTS

Publications

Top of Mind: Litigation

20 MAR 2019

In this issue, our coverage of 10 big topics businesses have been thinking about this quarter.

2019 Proxy Season Hot Topics: Part 3 – SEC hedging rules, auditor report, Form 10-K changes

15 FEB 2019

2019 PROXY SEASON HOT TOPICS

New SEC hedging rules, changes to the auditor's report, changes to Form 10-K cover pages and exhibit hyperlinks.

Top of mind: Litigation

10 DEC 2018

Our coverage of big compliance, enforcement and litigation issues that businesses are thinking about this quarter.

How technical touchpoints can ensnare foreign cryptocurrency companies

29 OCT 2018

Useful guideposts for overseas companies assessing whether they are exposed to US securities laws.

Crypto industry sweep: ICOs and token offerings under increasing scrutiny by US regulators

18 APR 2018

Recent enforcement developments targeting the cryptocurrency community, and the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

Smartphone apps pose heightened compliance risks under new US FCPA Corporate Enforcement Policy

7 FEB 2018

Smartphone users in China and many other emerging economies increasingly rely on so-called super-apps, which integrate features otherwise accessible through multiple applications under a single user interface and account.

Growing whistleblower activity calls for close employer attention to retaliation issues

7 MAY 2013

Careful consideration must precede adverse action against purported whistleblowers

NEWS

DLA Piper announces launch of Artificial Intelligence practice

14 MAY 2019

DLA Piper announced today the launch of its Artificial Intelligence practice, which will focus on assisting companies as they navigate the legal landscape of emerging and disruptive technologies, while helping them understand the legal and compliance

risks arising from the creation and deployment of AI systems.

DLA Piper advised Geophysical Sub-Strata on its tap sale of US\$114.5 million Guaranteed Medium Term Notes

4 APR 2019

DLA Piper has advised Geophysical Sub-Strata Ltd. on the tap sale of US\$114.5 million 8% Guaranteed Medium Term Notes due 2023 as Series 001, Tranche 002 under the Company's US\$400,000,000 Guaranteed Multicurrency Medium Term Note Programme.

DLA Piper announces partnership promotions for 2019

1 APR 2019

DLA Piper is proud to announce that 77 lawyers have been promoted to its partnership. The promotions are effective as of April 1, 2019 in the United States and May 1, 2019 for EMEA and Asia Pacific. The promotions were made across many of the firm's practice areas in 43 different offices throughout 20 countries.

DLA Piper announces launch of Blockchain and Digital Assets practice

26 FEB 2019

DLA Piper announced today the launch of its Blockchain and Digital Assets practice, which will offer strategic advice on a global basis to address the needs of companies implementing blockchain technology solutions and creating and deploying digital assets.

Kate Brown de Vejar joins DLA Piper as global co-chair of International Arbitration

22 JAN 2019

DLA Piper announced today that Kate Brown de Vejar has joined the firm's Litigation practice as a partner in Mexico City and New York.

DLA Piper and IKM Advocates secure victory for the Republic of Kenya defeating a US\$2 billion ICSID claim

24 OCT 2018

In a decisive victory for the Republic of Kenya, DLA Piper and DLA Piper Africa member firm, IKM Advocates, have successfully defeated the claim estimated to be worth US\$2 billion in arbitration proceedings brought by a mining investor, Cortec Mining Kenya Limited. The claim was brought under the bilateral investment treaty (BIT) between the UK and Kenya dated 13 September 1999. The arbitration took place under the auspices of the World Bank's International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), with the hearing taking place in Dubai in January 2018. The Tribunal issued its award on 22 October 2018.

DLA Piper hosts inaugural Afghanistan-UK Business Conference

18 SEP 2018

DLA Piper's London office yesterday hosted the first Afghanistan-UK Business Conference, organised by the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in London and the International Chamber of Commerce in Afghanistan. The event, aimed at further enhancing Afghanistan-UK bilateral business, trade and investment relations, was attended by over 100 participants including public and private sector leaders, potential investors, NGOs and consultants, amongst others.

DLA Piper represents the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to recoup funds from one of the world's largest Ponzi schemes

16 AUG 2018

DLA Piper has successfully acted with Counsel (Thomas Bradley QC, Michael Hodge QC and Julia O'Connor) for the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in the second of two proceedings before the Federal Court of Australia.

DLA Piper announces partnership promotions for 2018

3 APR 2018

DLA Piper is proud to announce that 62 lawyers have been promoted to its partnership. The promotions are effective as of 1 April 2018 in the United States and 1 May 2018 for EMEA and Asia Pacific. The promotions were made across many of the firm's practice areas in 42 different offices throughout 20 countries.

DLA Piper Africa advises Adenia Partners on acquisition of controlling stake in Kanu Equipment Limited

23 MAR 2018

Kanu has been driving an expansion strategy across Sub-Saharan Africa in recent years and the business now operates in 13 countries, servicing the agriculture, construction and mining industries.

DLA Piper advises Timor-Leste on historic maritime treaty

6 MAR 2018

DLA Piper has been advising the Government of Timor-Leste, for more than four years, on its historic maritime treaty with the Australian Government, signed today at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, following the successful outcome of a compulsory conciliation process.

Businesses still not fully aware of Data Protection issues

31 JAN 2018

DLA Piper has released its second Data Privacy Snapshot report, finding that once again, company global privacy programs have gaps in meeting increasingly demanding global privacy principles. Significantly, it appears that many companies are falling short of data protection obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which will start to apply from 25 May 2018.

DLA Piper appoints dispute resolution lawyer Natalie Caton to partnership

29 JAN 2018

Global law firm DLA Piper has appointed senior dispute resolution lawyer, Natalie Caton, as a partner of the firm effective 29 January 2018. She joins DLA Piper's Litigation and Regulatory practice from King & Wood Mallesons.

Stephen Matthews joins DLA Piper's Litigation practice in New Jersey

17 JAN 2018

DLA Piper announced today that Stephen Matthews has joined the firm's Litigation practice as a partner in the Short Hills, New Jersey, office.

DLA Piper advises Laureate Education on the US\$162 million sale of its institution in Malaysia to Affinity Equity Partners

8 JAN 2018

DLA Piper has advised Laureate Education (NASDAQ:LAUR), the world's largest global network of higher education institutions, on the sale of its global network institution in Malaysia -INTI University and Colleges (INTI)- to Affinity Equity Partners ("Affinity"), one of the largest independent private equity firms in the Asia Pacific region, for a total transaction value of US\$180 million. The net transaction value to Laureate under the Agreement will be US\$162 million.

Six months until GDPR: companies still reporting low levels of preparedness

15 Nov 2017

For the over 200 organisations responding to DLA Piper's Data Privacy Scorebox online survey tool since the start of the year, the average alignment score with all key international data privacy principles was 31.5%, as against an 38.3% average score for respondents in the 2016 calendar year.

DLA Piper advising FirstRand on £1.1 billion takeover of Aldermore Group PLC

7 NOV 2017

DLA Piper is acting for FirstRand, South Africa's largest financial services institution, who have put forward a £1.1 billion recommended offer for approval by the shareholders of Aldermore Group PLC, ("Aldermore") a British specialist lender and savings bank

DLA Piper advises Aetna Inc. on acquisition of Bupa Thailand

2 AUG 2017

DLA Piper has represented Aetna Inc. on the acquisition of Bupa Group's Thai business, Bupa Thailand for an undisclosed sum. Aetna is a leading global healthcare provider and this acquisition will significantly increase Aetna's presence in Asia, and is key to the company's strategy to go 'broader and deeper' into local healthcare markets.

Rankings

- Named a “standout” firm for securities and finance litigation (BTI Litigation Outlook Report 2013, 2014, 2015)
- Ranked #1 in Securities and White Collar by number of partners (*Law360* 2014)
- Ranked #2 in the US for commercial law and contracts litigation, based on a review of public filings from Fortune 250 companies (*Corporate Counsel*)
- Dispute Resolution Team of the Year (Legal Business Awards)
- #1 Litigation practice by number of lawyers (*The American Lawyer* 2013)
- #1 in overall M&A deal volume and mid-market deal volume globally during 2014 (*Mergermarket* and *Thomson Reuters*)
- Named in the prestigious FT 40 as one of the most innovative North American law firms (*Financial Times* 2014)
- Named Law Firm of the Year (*Legal Business* 2014)
- Leading firm for international arbitration (*Global Arbitration Review's* 2013 GAR 30 rankings of the world's most active arbitration practices)
- Ranked #1 for US antitrust litigation, based on the number of cases in US federal district court during the prior two years (*Martindale-Hubbell*)
- Listed as one of the top Product Liability Groups of the Year (*Law360* 2013)
- More litigators based outside the US than any other firm on the AmLaw 100 List
- Global Real Estate Firm of the Year (*The International Who's Who of Business Lawyers* 2005-2013)
- Franchise Law Firm of the Year (*The International Who's Who of Business Lawyers* 2005-2013)
- Named International Law Firm of the Americas, for the fifth consecutive year (*International Tax Review* 2014)