



## 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.

### KEY CONTACTS

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### RELATED SERVICES

- Litigation, Arbitration and Investigations
- Corporate Disputes

## STOCKHOLDER DERIVATIVE AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE CLAIMS

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

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### 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

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### Publications

## SEC interim final amendments signal stricter regulation on Chinese and other emerging market companies

29 March 2021

Under the new requirements, certain companies must establish that they are not owned or controlled by a foreign government entity and must disclose any foreign government influence.

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## Global Corporate Disputes Trends Report 2021

16 March 2021

Our new Global Corporate Disputes Trend Report addresses the impact of COVID-19 on corporate disputes and looks for potential points of comparison with past crises. We also look at other emerging trends, for example, cash flow issues within businesses, and an increase in the use of third-party funding in both litigation and arbitration.

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## Disputes, Issue 2

28 January 2021

### [DISPUTES](#)

In this issue, we look at the split among the federal circuits over what it means to "exceed authorized access" in violation of the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act; the ways in which the federal courts apply the Supreme Court's recent limitations on equitable disgorgement; ways to mitigate liability risk in unauthorized financial transfers; considerations for employers as they develop policies regarding use of cannabis in their workforce; and the critical importance of escalation protocols in corporate whistleblower programs.

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## Six months after *Liu*: The SEC and disgorgement

28 January 2021

In the wake of *Liu*, several open questions are only now starting to work their way through the courts.

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## SEC 2021 and beyond: What to expect

7 December 2020

Some likely areas of SEC focus, from both the regulatory and enforcement perspectives, in 2021 and beyond.

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## Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

23 November 2020

### [BLOCKCHAIN AND DIGITAL ASSETS NEWS AND TRENDS](#)

IMF issues report on regulatory framework for CBDs and GSCs, SEC invites feedback on application of custody rule to digital assets.

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## Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

21 October 2020

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## [BLOCKCHAIN AND DIGITAL ASSETS NEWS AND TRENDS](#)

SDNY finds Kin token is a security; unpacking the DOJ's cryptocurrency guidance – plus latest legal, regulatory and case law developments.

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### **Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends**

21 August 2020

## [BLOCKCHAIN AND DIGITAL ASSETS NEWS AND TRENDS](#)

California appellate court affirms judgment for Coinbase in lawsuit over Bitcoin Gold – plus latest legal, regulatory and case law developments.

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### **US moves forward on enhanced securities regulations focusing on Chinese companies**

17 August 2020

Latest developments in US efforts to address the financial risks posed by emerging market companies.

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### **Protecting the attorney-client privilege while under quarantine: Five tips for protecting attorney-client privilege when using online collaboration tools**

22 June 2020

With the increase in remote working comes an increased opportunity for attorney-client privilege issues to surface.

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### **Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends June 2020**

18 June 2020

## [BLOCKCHAIN AND DIGITAL ASSETS NEWS AND TRENDS](#)

World Economic Forum announces Presidio Principles as a foundation of blockchain ecosystem design – plus latest legal, regulatory and case law developments.

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### **Preparing for global class actions arising from COVID-19**

28 May 2020

The risk to companies of global and cross-border class action and collective redress proceedings is rising.

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### **Chinese and other emerging market companies listed in the US face increased scrutiny from Congress and Nasdaq**

27 May 2020

Within a span of two days, the US Senate, House and Nasdaq each took steps to safeguard investors in the US capital markets.

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### **Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends**

20 May 2020

## [BLOCKCHAIN AND DIGITAL ASSETS NEWS AND TRENDS](#)

California may limit application of securities laws to tokens, French court says bitcoins are fungible assets – plus latest legal, regulatory and case law developments.

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### **California bill proposes limits on application of securities laws to tokens**

20 May 2020

The proposed changes are likely to be well received by those considering issuing tokens.

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### **French court clarifies the nature of bitcoins: A consumable, fungible, intangible asset**

20 May 2020

The dispute arose in the wake of the August 2017 hard fork split.

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### **A costly reminder: When is a deadline not in fact a deadline?**

14 May 2020

The recent High Court judgment in *Towergate Financial (Group) Ltd and other companies v Hopkinson and others (2020)* has served as a very stark reminder of potential pitfalls relating to notification of claims in respect of warranties and indemnities contained in share purchase agreements.

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### **Corporate commitment to compliance helps bank avoid FCPA charges despite alleged \$4.5M bribery scheme**

24 April 2020

The SEC's complaint provides insight into what made the compliance program so effective that the individual's former employer avoided government sanctions.

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## **Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends**

25 March 2020

## [BLOCKCHAIN AND DIGITAL ASSETS NEWS AND TRENDS](#)

The age of viral outbreaks – key contract considerations in a post-COVID-19 world, plus latest legal, regulatory and case law developments around blockchain and digital transformation.

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### **Growing whistleblower activity calls for close employer attention to retaliation issues**

7 MAY 2013

Careful consideration must precede adverse action against purported whistleblowers

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## [NEWS](#)

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## **DLA Piper launches Aiscension to help detect and prevent cartel activity in collaboration with Reveal**

15 March 2021

- New offering delivers cutting-edge technology from *Reveal* alongside DLA Piper's first-class legal know-how
  - Time and cost savings allow for companies to focus on detection
  - Faster, more effective and better value than traditional technology assisted and manual reviews
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## **DLA Piper wins TMT Finance M&A Global Telecom Deal of the Year**

8 December 2020

DLA Piper is pleased to announce that they have received the TMT Finance M&A Global Telecom Deal of the Year for their representation of T-Mobile and Deutsche Telekom in the T-Mobile-Sprint merger.

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## **'Industry standard' for use of arbitration platforms moves a step closer as pan-firm collaboration receives support**

30 November 2020

Plans to standardise the approach to online case management in international arbitration are a step closer to reality, after a draft protocol received positive feedback from an industry-wide consultation.

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## **DLA Piper and LCM collaborate with new third-party funder for DLA Piper clients**

13 August 2020

DLA Piper has entered into a non-exclusive arrangement with publicly listed disputes financier Litigation Capital Management (LCM), and a newly formed litigation funder, Aldersgate Funding Limited to offer clients of DLA Piper access to GBP150m for funding large-scale litigation and arbitration. This will be offered on a financial risk-free (non-recourse) basis with a streamlined approval process embedded within the offering.

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## **DLA Piper arbitration practice recognized as world leading by Global Arbitration Review**

14 July 2020

DLA Piper has been recognized once again as having one of the world's leading international arbitration practices.

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## **Law firms collaborate on industry first to accelerate tech adoption in international arbitration**

2 July 2020

DLA Piper is amongst six international law firms which have developed a Protocol to help deliver a globally consistent approach to the use of online case management platforms in international arbitration.

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## **DLA Piper announces partnership promotions for 2020**

30 April 2020

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DLA Piper is proud to announce that 67 lawyers have been promoted to its partnership. The promotions are effective as of April 1, 2020 in the United States and May 1, 2020 for EMEA and Asia Pacific. The promotions have been made across many of the firm's practice areas in 35 different offices throughout 13 countries.

Across the firm's practices globally, Corporate saw the largest intake of new partners with 19 promotions, followed by Litigation and Regulatory with 15. Intellectual Property and Technology and Finance and Projects had ten and eight promotions respectively, while there were six in Real Estate. Tax and Employment both had four, and there was one in Restructuring.

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## **DLA Piper lawyers named Acritas Stars**

10 March 2020

Acritas has named over 200 DLA Piper lawyers as 2020 Acritas Stars. Now in its fourth year, Acritas Stars highlights the stand-out lawyers in private practice as nominated by clients around the world. More than 3,000 senior in-house counsel feed into the nomination process to give a comprehensive view of highly recommended lawyers across the globe.

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## **DLA Piper appoints Head of Global Government Affairs team**

6 March 2020

DLA Piper announces the strengthening of its Global Government Affairs team with the appointment of Richard Sterneberg who will head up the team in its Brussels office. Richard brings with him over 20 years of experience working in Brussels as a global government affairs expert.

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## **DLA Piper launches its Global Litigation Guide**

3 December 2019

DLA Piper has launched its 'Global Litigation Guide', which covers aspects of civil litigation in 30 jurisdictions worldwide.

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## **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.

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## **Rankings**

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- 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)
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- #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)