



Matthew Wright

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Business Litigation | Government Contracts & Global Trade | Appellate Litigation |
Alternative Dispute Resolution & Mediation | False Claims Act | Securities Litigation |
Government Investigations & White Collar Defense

Matthew Wright is a seasoned trial lawyer with over twenty years of experience before state and federal courts, administrative agencies, contract boards of appeal, and domestic and international arbitration tribunals. He has successfully defended countless high-value actions over his career, and has also obtained nearly \$200 million in final judgments and arbitral awards on behalf of his plaintiff clients.

Matt is the Office Managing Partner of the Washington, DC office. He is a trial lawyer and counselor who focuses on complex commercial litigation involving government contracts, intellectual property and advertising cases, securities, real estate and property tax disputes, unclaimed property, products liability, and unfair competition law. He represents clients across multiple industries including, hospitality, healthcare, consumer products/electronics, telecommunications, financial services, and the federal procurement industry.

Known for his ability to develop and integrate a deep understanding of clients' businesses and goals into innovative and effective legal representation, Matt takes a pragmatic and business-focused approach to litigation, tailored to meet the business objectives behind each specific case. When trial is unavoidable, Matt has an enviable track record of delivering exceptional results. But he is also a skilled negotiator who is able to recognize and take advantage of opportunities for clients to resolve their matter without resorting to potentially disruptive litigation. Matt's practice also includes general counseling on litigation risk management and alternative dispute resolution options and agreements.

Matt is a member of the Board of Directors of the Council for Court Excellence, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the administration of justice and fostering public education of the judicial system in Washington, DC. He has worked with the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs and DC Public Schools to organize and promote geographic literacy and an annual geography tournament for elementary school students in the District. Matt is also a member of the International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC).

Outside of work, Matt enjoys reading contemporary literature and collecting South African wine and art. Matt appreciates any opportunity to travel to Southern Africa with his wife and two daughters.

Representative Matters

Multinational technology company—Multi-plaintiff products liability litigation

Currently representing a cellular phone manufacturer in twenty products liability cases pending in DC Superior Court in which plaintiffs allege that they suffered brain cancer as a result of exposure to cell phone emissions.

Overstock.com—Major Appellate Victory Reversing a \$7.3 Million Judgment

Secured an appellate victory on behalf of Overstock.com in the Delaware Supreme Court in a unique case involving Delaware escheat law and a qui tam action. The Court, sitting en banc, unanimously reversed a multi-million dollar false claim judgment entered against Overstock.com.

Global manufacturer—False advertising and unfair competition claims

Lead defense counsel for the world's largest mattress company in a Lanham Act false advertising, trademark, and unfair competition suit.

Patent Pool—\$69 Million summary judgment

Secured a \$69 million summary judgment on behalf of plaintiff patent pool that licenses consumer electronics technology in suit against two Chinese corporations and their individual owners who engaged in fraud, trademark infringement, counterfeiting, and breach of license agreement. The judgment included treble damages, interest, and attorney's fees.

Corporate directors—Complete defense jury verdict dismissing remaining claims against CEO

Trial counsel for directors of a publicly traded behavioral health company in a shareholder class action. Obtained dismissals for non-executive directors and won a complete defense jury verdict on remaining claims against the CEO following a two-week jury trial (modified post-verdict).

Defense contractor—Multimillion arbitral award

Lead counsel for claimant defense contractor in an arbitration proceeding regarding Afghan tax liabilities; won \$2.3 million arbitral award.

Close corporation fiduciary litigation—\$100 million plus jury award on counterclaim

Trial counsel for third-party defendant in breach of fiduciary duty, misappropriation, and breach of contract case; won \$103.9 million jury verdict on counterclaim and defense verdict on claims asserted against client following a three week trial. Verdict Search ranked the verdict among the largest jury awards in the United States in 2004.

Software services provider—Multimillion award including attorneys' fees in breach of contract international arbitration

Counsel for claimant software services provider in a proceeding before the International Chamber of Commerce's International Court of Arbitration involving breach of a software license agreement by a Chinese joint venture company; won a multimillion dollar award, including attorneys' fees and costs.

Bondholders—\$110 Million fraud and breach of contract litigation

Counsel for a group of bondholders in a fraud and breach of contract suit concerning a contested \$110 million debt for equity swap of subprime mortgage backed securities.

Commercial bank—High value leasing dispute

Trial counsel to a large regional commercial and retail bank in a multimillion dollar lease dispute.

Specialty ferroalloy manufacturer—Antitrust litigation

Defense counsel for a major producer and supplier of specialty ferroalloys in consolidated federal antitrust suits challenging alleged attempts to manipulate US import duties; matter resolved favorably for client.

Commercial property owners—Real property tax assessment appeals

Represent various hotel, hospital, and nursing home property owners in real property tax assessment appeals against District of Columbia.

Pet food manufacturer—False advertising and unfair competition claims

Litigation counsel for a large pet food manufacturer in Lanham Act false advertising and unfair competition litigation.

Healthcare company—Shareholder class action

Defense counsel for health care company in a shareholder class action lawsuit brought to enjoin the client's acquisition in an announced tender offer; acquisition was consummated on time and the plaintiffs' claims were abandoned with no payment or settlement.

Education

Boston College Law School, JD, 2000

Princeton University, AB, *cum laude*, 1997

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia

Massachusetts (Inactive)

Court Admissions

U.S. Court of Appeals, First and Eleventh Circuits District of Columbia

U.S. District Court, District of District of Columbia

Memberships and Certifications

Council for Court Excellence
Member, Board of Directors

Legal Aid Society, District of Columbia

Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs

International Association of Defense Counsel

Alerts

McCarter Achieves Significant Win In the Delaware Supreme Court for Overstock.com, Litigation Alert, 5.25.2020

Articles

Boomerang: The False Claims Act Returns Post-COVID, Briefing Papers, 10.19.2022

Borrowers Beware: GAO Ramps Up Efforts to Root Out Fraud Among CARES Act Loan Recipients, Westlaw Journal, 4.20.2020

Why Conflict Is Brewing Over Del. Unclaimed Property Law, Law360, 1.30.2020

Why Conflict Is Brewing over Del. Unclaimed Property Law, Law360, 1.23.2020

Jurors Should Ask More Questions during Trials, Law360, 11.27.2018

Blogs

The False Claims Act's Fuzzy Scienter Element Brought into Sharp Focus, Government Contracts Law Blog, 5.8.2023

No Harm, No Fraud: The Supreme Court Narrows the Application of the Wire Fraud Statute and Unanimously Overrules the "Right to Control" Theory, Government Contracts Law Blog, 5.18.2023

What Every Federal Contractor Should Know About the FTC's Proposed Rule to Void Noncompete Agreements Nationwide—and What to Do About It, Government Contracts Law Blog, 4.4.2023

Knowing IS the Battle: Supreme Court to Address the FCA's Scienter Standard, Government Contracts Law Blog, 2.1.2023

DOJ's Procurement Collusion Strike Force: Widening Its Stride on Its Third Anniversary, Government Contracts Law Blog, 11.2.2022

Prevention v. Cure: Supply Chain Hygiene Is the Key to Defending Enforcement, Service Contractor/Government Contracts Law Blog, 8.31.2021

2020 False Claims Act Recoveries Were Down by One-Third in 2020. . . and That's Bad News for Federal Contractors, Government Contracts Law Blog, 1.19.2021

Honest Abe Would Demand "Objective Falsity" for FCA Liability. Will the Supreme Court?, Government Contracts Law Blog, 10.30.2020

DFARS Final Rule Establishes Goal of 15-Day Accelerated Payments for Small Business Contractors, Government Contracts Law Blog, 4.14.2020

COVID-19 Response — Locked In Paradise — Hawai'i Issues Robust Stay-at-Home and Mandatory Quarantine Orders for Visitors and Residents, Government Contracts Law Blog, 3.24.2020

New DOJ Strike Force Targets Collusion in Federal Contract Awards, Government Contracts Law Blog, 11.22.2019

New DOJ Strike Force Targets Collusion in Federal Contract Awards, Government Contracts Law Blog, 11.22.2019

The Sword of Damocles Hangs Over Miller Act Sureties and Brokers: Scollick Case Stayed Sixty Days for Mediation, but Outcome Remains Uncertain, Government Contracts Law Blog, 9.22.2019

Alutiiq False Claims Act Settlement Highlights Significant Government Contract Compliance Risks for Tribal, NHO, and ANC 8(a) Subsidiaries, Government Contracts Law Blog, 5.16.2019

Speaking Engagements

Balancing Reward & Risk in GovCon Collaborations: Mentor-Protégé, JVs, Subcontracts, and Teaming Arrangements, Native Hawaiian Organizations Association, 4.19.2023

Litigating Tax Appeals: Key Considerations When Evaluating and Prosecuting an Appeal, 2019 Tax Executives Institute ("TEI") New England Chapter: SALT Committee Meeting, 2.8.2019

Webinars

The Dark Side of Government Contracting, George Mason University, 3.12.2024

False Claims Act Update, Public Contracting Institute, 9.23.2021

Data Abduction: Combatting and Limiting Ransomware Risks, Public Contracting Institute, 8.23.2021

The New Hostage Crisis: How Federal Contractors Can Reduce Ransomware Risks, Coalition for Government Procurement, 8.12.2021

The False Claims Act, Guam Contractors Association, 5.12.2021

The False Claims Act: 2020 Hindsight and New Year Predictions, Public Contracting Institute, 12.16.2020

Working with Experts to Litigate Liability and Damages in False Advertising Cases, 10.27.2020

Working with Experts to Litigate Liability and Damages in False Advertising Cases, NERA Economic Consulting, 5.20.2020

Podcasts

The Threat That Ransomware Poses, Government Executive: GovExec Daily, 9.2.2021

Quoted

A Circuit-By-Circuit Guide To FCA Suits After High Court Snub, Law360, 11.2.2022

Surety Ruling Narrows Avenues For FCA Liability, Law360, 8.4.2022

SCOTUS Declines to Address Circuit Split on FCA "Objective Falsity," Which May Spur Settlements, Law360, 2.23.2021

As Lawsuits Hit, Restaurant Chains' Defenses Go beyond the Courtroom, Restaurant Business, 2.12.2021

Raucous 2021 Awaits FCA Litigants after Low-Key Year, Law360, 1.25.2021