Dinsmore

Laurie A. Witek

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Laurie focuses her practice on complex litigation, including defense of government contracts disputes, false claims act cases, and other civil enforcement and regulatory actions. She has extensive experience with internal investigations, responding to government requests for information, subpoenas, and Civil Investigative Demands, and defending lawsuits involving the Department of Justice and other federal agencies. She represents defense contractors, financial institutions, heath care providers, and other corporations in all phases of investigation and enforcement litigation. Her experience includes disputes involving environmental, health care, and banking regulations, as well as a variety of government contracting issues, including commercial item and other cost allowability determinations, defective pricing, and labor mischarging. She has also advised a major defense contractor on government contracts matters as a seconded in-house attorney. Laurie has also defended clients in banking and financial services litigation, including consumer-related claims, class actions, and government investigations.

Dinsmore on FCA: News and Insights on the False Claims Act

Services

- Litigation
- False Claims Act
- Government Contracts

Education

- University of Cincinnati College of Law (J.D., *magna cum laude*, 2008)
- Wright State University (B.A., *summa cum laude*, 2005)

Bar Admissions

- Ohio

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio

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Affiliations/Memberships

- Cincinnati Bar Association
- Ohio State Bar Association

Distinctions

- Ohio *Rising Star*® for General Litigation

Experience

Obtained Favorable Settlement in Intervened False Claims Act Case Alleging Violation of Environmental Laws

Our attorneys represented a Department of Energy contractor in an intervened FCA lawsuit alleging the submission of false claims and statements associated with the contractor's compliance with environmental statutes and regulations. After more than a decade of litigation, the government agreed to settle the case for less than one percent of its initial damages calculation.

Successfully Resolved Intervened False Claims Act Case Against Department of Defense Contractor Involving Multiple Relators

Our attorneys represented a federal contractor in an intervened FCA lawsuit arising out of multiple *qui tam* suits alleging that the contractor acted recklessly by failing to oversee and discover the fraudulent activities of one of its suppliers. The attorneys obtained dismissal of one relator under the FCA's first-to-file rule at both the district court level and in the Fifth Circuit. They also successfully defeated an early motion for summary judgment brought by the Department of Justice on its common law claim premised on an alleged violation of the cost-plus-percentage-of-cost prohibition. After Court denied the Government's motion for summary judgment, the case settled for a fraction of the Government's alleged single damages.

Assistance with Internal Investigations, Government Investigations and Subpoenas

We regularly assist and advise companies with internal investigations in response to whistleblower complaints, internal reports of wrongdoing, and inquiries from federal agencies. We also routinely represent companies that have received a DOJ or IG subpoena, working quickly to respond to the subpoena and investigate the likely allegations. We have persuaded the Government to decline intervention in numerous sealed *qui tam* actions.

Publications

May 9, 2017

Fifth Circuit Reinforces Demanding Materiality Standard Required Of False Claims Act Plaintiffs

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January 4, 2017

Three Considerations for FCA Defendants in Light of the Supreme Court's Rejection of Dismissal as a Mandatory Remedy for FCA Seal Violations