



James Belanger

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Jim practices in the areas of white-collar criminal defense, government investigations, lawyer discipline and professional liability, and civil, regulatory and administrative litigation.

Jim is listed in Best Lawyers in America in six categories: Criminal Defense; White Collar Criminal Defense; Ethics and Professional Liability, Commercial Litigation, Regulatory Litigation, and Qui Tam Litigation. He is also listed in the top tier of Chambers USA for White Collar Criminal Defense and Government Investigations, in Southwest Super Lawyers for White Collar Criminal Defense, and is rated AV Preeminent by Martindale Hubbell.

Jim has also been a member of the Arizona State Bar Committee on the Rules of Professional Conduct and advises lawyers on ethical compliance issues, represents lawyers in disciplinary proceedings before the State Bar of Arizona, and defends lawyers in legal malpractice lawsuits.

Representative Matters

- Representation of national bank against civil and administrative allegations of consumer fraud and predatory lending. Defense verdict.
- Representation of senior management in an SEC investigation. No prosecution.
- Representation of a national title company in a False Claims Act case involving alleged violations of federal housing laws. Successful civil resolution. No prosecution.
- Representation of the Arizona Department of Financial Institutions as outside counsel in a complex mortgage license revocation
- Representation of elected official alleged to have filed false election documents. Case dismissed
- Representation of lawyers in State Bar investigations from pre-charge through formal hearing

- Representation of tribal executive against federal allegations of money laundering and theft of honest services. No prosecution.
- Representation of physicians and health care providers in False Claims Act cases
- Representation of national marketing company and officer against allegations of consumer fraud and deceptive trade practices. Case Dismissed.
- Death Penalty Defense: 1991 to the present
- Trial and appellate representation of defendants in major felony cases including allegations of racketeering, sexual misconduct, tax fraud, and public corruption
- Representation of trustee in Chapter 11 bankruptcy cases of Boston Chicken, Nelson and Herbert Hunt, and Kaiser Steel

Publications and Presentations

- "The Continued Expansion of the False Claims Act," Journal of Health & Life Sciences Law (October 2010, co-authored with Scott Bennett)
- "Leadership, Ethics and Honor," (first presented in 2006)
- "Compliance Plans and Criminal Law Issues in Medicare Billing," Billing and Reimbursement Summit, Las Vegas, Nevada, June 2000
- "A Practical Guide to Remediation, Disclosure and Cooperation in the Context of Corporate Misconduct," American Bar Association – Section of Litigation, Summer 2005
- "Ephemeral Letters of Transit: Responding to Government Requests for Electronically Stored Information," American Bar Association – Section on Litigation, Winter 2007
- "Trail Dog and the Tao Te Ching (Honor, Ethical Rules and a Way of Life)," The Defender, Fall 2007
- "Seeking Attorney's Fees in Criminal Cases," Arizona Attorney, April 2001 (co-author)

Activities and Recognitions

- AV Preeminent™ Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell (5.0 out of 5.0)
- Best Lawyers in America 2007-present: White-Collar Criminal Defense, Non-White-Collar Criminal Defense, Ethics and Professional Liability, Commercial Litigation, Regulatory Litigation, and Qui Tam Law
- Best Lawyers "Lawyer of the Year" for 2011, 2014, 2017: Criminal Defense (Phoenix)
- Best Lawyers "Lawyer of the Year" for 2016: White Collar Criminal Defense (Phoenix)
- Best Lawyers "Lawyer of the Year" for 2013: Litigation-Regulatory Enforcement (Phoenix)
- Chambers USA Guide to America's Leading Lawyers 2004-2017: Litigation: White-Collar Crime & Government Investigations
- Southwest Super Lawyers 2007-2017: White Collar Criminal Defense
- Past President, Arizona Attorneys for Criminal Justice
- NACDL Ethics Advisory Committee
- Adjunct Professor of Law, Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law (Government Investigation and White Collar Criminal Process)
- Board of Directors, Special Olympics Arizona (2006-2008); State Director, Arizona Special Olympics Soccer (1983-2000)
- All New England Soccer Selection 1979, 1980; two-time inductee into Brandeis University Athletics Hall of Fame

Education and Bar Admissions

- J.D., Arizona State University, with honors, 1987
- B.A., Anthropology, Brandeis University, with honors, 1981
- Admitted in Arizona, 1987