

Chris Davis

Partner

Leader of the White-Collar Defense Practice Group, Chris Davis guides businesses and individuals through high-stakes investigations, criminal proceedings and civil enforcement actions brought by various federal and state agencies, including those involving allegations of securities fraud, insider trading, healthcare fraud, FCPA violations, False Claims Act violations and pay-to-play schemes. He also helps his clients resolve a variety of complex commercial disputes, both before and after litigation has been filed. Chris represents clients across the country and internationally spanning several industries, including healthcare, energy, financial services, fintech, real estate, technology and retail.

As a former government trial lawyer, Chris brings unique experience and an insider perspective to the firm's white-collar defense practice. He previously served as a Senior Trial Counsel in the SEC's Fort Worth Regional Office, which covers Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Kansas. In that role, he was responsible for leading litigation efforts throughout the country against individuals and entities charged with violating the federal securities laws. Chris investigated and prosecuted many cases involving a variety of high-profile and first-impression matters, ranging from cryptocurrency-based securities and Ponzi schemes to accounting fraud and insider trading.

A licensed CPA since 2000, Chris spent seven years in the private sector before entering law school, primarily in management consulting for a Big Four accounting and consulting firm. Chris leverages his experience as a government regulator, CPA and management consultant to advise clients on best practices for minimizing regulatory and business risks. In addition to helping clients develop proactive compliance policies and procedures, Chris conducts internal investigations to defuse compliance issues quickly before they give rise to an investigation or litigation.

Before joining the SEC in 2010, Chris worked in the trial department of a large international law firm. He has deep experience as lead counsel in civil and commercial litigation matters involving a broad range of issues,



Chris Davis

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Industries

Healthcare
Energy

Practices

White-Collar Defense
Commercial Litigation
Capital Markets & Securities
M&A/Private Equity

Education

J.D., *with honors*, The University of
Texas School of Law (2005)
B.B.A., Baylor University (1995)

Bar Admissions

Texas

Court Admissions

United States District Court, Eastern
District of Texas
United States District Court, Northern
District of Texas
United States District Court, Southern
District of Texas
United States District Court, Western
District of Texas

including claims arising from his white-collar practice, intellectual property, contract disputes, professional malpractice, plus many more.

Chris is a regular presenter on cutting-edge topics such as cybersecurity and digital currencies, as well as government enforcement and compliance issues.

Experience

Government Experience

- Achieved the SEC's first ever emergency appointment of a receiver in a case stemming from a fraudulent cryptocurrency offering.
- As part of a coordinated effort with the Department of Justice, FBI and CFTC, brought the SEC's first ever action against an unregistered online security-based swaps dealer.
- Successfully obtained emergency relief and multi-million-dollar final judgments in a \$33 million securities offering fraud targeting professional athletes.
- Investigated, charged and obtained favorable litigated judgments against three former executives, including the CEO and CCO, following a three-week administrative trial in connection with the \$7 billion Stanford Ponzi scheme.
- Investigated and negotiated settlements with an NYSE-listed energy company and its former CFO, CAO, auditor and SOX consultant based on the company's failure to evaluate and disclose internal control weaknesses.
- Obtained settled final judgments against a NASDAQ-listed specialty retail company and its former COO based on the company's recurring accounting misstatements in its public filings.
- Obtained an emergency temporary restraining order, the appointment of a receiver and a \$65 million final judgment in an international

foreign-exchange trading scheme that involved extensive coordination with authorities from Australia and the Netherlands.

- As part of a coordinated effort with the Department of Justice, Secret Service, FBI and Texas State Securities Board, obtained an emergency temporary restraining order, the appointment of a receiver and a \$35 million final judgment in an oil and gas securities offering fraud.

Law Firm Experience

- Successfully defended an international telecommunications company in a multi-billion-dollar patent infringement suit.
- Successfully defended a major international law firm against professional malpractice claims stemming from the firm's representation of an individual charged by the SEC, Department of Justice and IRS with various civil and criminal violations.
- Successfully defended a Big Four accounting firm against professional malpractice claims stemming from the firm's audit activities.
- As part of a bankruptcy proceeding, helped the debtor-in-possession company obtain a multi-billion-dollar fraudulent transfer judgment.
- Negotiated a favorable settlement on behalf of a subcontractor in a dispute involving the general contractor and other subcontractors.
- Successfully defended a major pharmaceutical company in a personal injury class-action suit involving thousands of potential claimants across the country.

Press Releases

- “Gray Reed Welcomes Former SEC Trial Lawyer as White-Collar Defense Practice Group Leader” (July 29, 2019)

Speeches and Presentations

- “What Every Accountant Needs to Know About the Travel Act”, San Antonio CPA Society 2019 CE Symposium (October 24, 2019)
- “Good Cop/Bad Cop: Dealing with Law Enforcement”, National Association of Federal Equity Receivers Annual Conference (October 18, 2019)
- “Understanding Recent Schemes and Scams Targeting Professional Athletes”, National Basketball Retired Players Association (January 2019)
- “Introduction to Bitcoin, Blockchain, and Ethereum”, Various U.S. Government Enforcement Agencies (February 2018)
- “Cybersecurity”, Dallas CPA Society: Convergence 2016 (May 2016)
- “Understanding and Preventing Business Fraud”, Accounting Continuing Professional Education Network Signature Series: 2015 (September 2015)
- “Cross-Agency Panel Discussion”, The White House Summit on Cybersecurity and Consumer Protection: Dallas Open House (February 2015)
- “Cybersecurity and Virtual Currency Panel Discussion”, 38th Annual Southwest Securities Conference (August 2014)
- “Bitcoin Basics”, U.S. IRS and Department of Justice (April 2014)
- “Cybersecurity and Digital Currency Panel Discussion”, Dallas Bar Association (April 2014)
- “Cybersecurity Panel Discussion”, 37th Annual Southwest Securities Conference (September 2013)
- “Trends in Cybercrime”, Joint SEC-FBI presentation to financial industry representatives (September 2010)

Honors

- SEC Director's Award (2013, 2015 - 2017)

Organizational Involvement

- Carry The Load – Team Leader and Fundraiser
- Trophy Club Roanoke Youth Baseball Association – Board Member