Matthew S. Axelrod

Partner

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Washington, D.C.



Matt is a nationally recognized crisis management and white-collar defense lawyer with deep criminal, national security, and export enforcement experience. His practice focuses on internal investigations, white-collar criminal defense, and crisis management for U.S. and multinational companies, their boards, and their senior executives. Matt co-chairs Gibson Dunn's Sanctions and Export Enforcement practice, where he works closely with clients to conduct internal investigations, evaluate compliance programs, advise on voluntary self-disclosures, and defend against government-facing investigations.

Matt is the only person to have previously served as both Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General at the U.S. Department of Justice — a role described in the *New York Times* "as the most demanding job in all of DOJ" – and Assistant Secretary for Export Enforcement at the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS). His over 25 years of government enforcement, white-collar defense, and crisis management experience are why clients consistently rely on Matt to help them navigate their most sensitive and complex matters. *Lawdragon* recently named Matt as one of the 500 Global Leaders in Crisis Management.

Immediately before joining Gibson Dunn, Matt served as the Senate-confirmed Assistant Secretary for Export Enforcement at BIS, where he led the team responsible for enforcing the country's export control and antiboycott laws. During Matt's tenure, BIS brought a record number of criminal and administrative enforcement actions, including the highest standalone administrative penalty in the agency's history. Matt revamped the agency's export enforcement policies (including those on voluntary self-disclosures), issued numerous compliance guidance memos for industry, launched the boycott requester list, and was an architect of the Disruptive Technology Strike Force. Prior to his confirmation, Matt served as Special Counsel in the White House Counsel's Office, where he advised on national security and domestic issues.

Matt also spent over thirteen years at the Department of Justice, including serving twice as Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General. Alongside the Deputy Attorney General, Matt oversaw DOJ's entire workforce, including the prosecutors and agents in the U.S. Attorney's Offices, the Criminal Division, the National Security Division, and the FBI. Matt also provided oversight of all significant corporate enforcement resolutions, managed countless crises, and engaged with Congress and the White House on DOJ's behalf. Matt initially joined DOJ in 2003 as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of Florida, where he conducted nineteen felony jury trials and prosecuted some of the office's most high-profile cases, including the conviction of two founders of the Cali Cartel.

Matt previously led the Global Business Crime & Investigations practice at another major international law firm, where he conducted internal investigations and represented entities and individuals under investigation by DOJ, SEC, and other agencies.

Matt is a sought-after speaker at conferences and industry events around the world and

Capabilities

White Collar Defense and Investigations
Aerospace and Defense
Crisis Management
International Trade Advisory and Enforcement
National Security
Robotics
Sanctions and Export Enforcement
Tech and Innovation

Credentials

Education

Yale University - 1997 Juris Doctor
Amherst College - 1992 Bachelor of Arts

Admissions

District of Columbia Bar
Massachusetts Bar

Clerkships

USDC, Connecticut, Hon. Janet C. Hall, 1998 - 1999
US Court of Appeals, 2nd Circuit, Hon. Ralph K. Winter Jr., 1997 - 1998

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has been frequently quoted in publications like the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times*, *Reuters*, and the *Financial Times*.

Matt graduated from Amherst College and Yale Law School, where he served as Notes Editor of the *Yale Law Journal*. Following law school, he clerked for the Honorable Ralph K. Winter, Jr. on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and for the Honorable Janet C. Hall on the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut.

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