

Joan Meyer

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Overview

Joan has more than 30 years' experience handling complex criminal and civil litigation, primarily domestic and international white collar defense for companies involving anti-corruption, financial frauds, government contracting, false claims, securities and commodities violations, and trade compliance matters. She has tried scores of cases at the state and federal levels and handled more than 40 appeals in state and federal appeals courts. Joan also conducts domestic and international internal investigations for corporate clients to determine if legal and regulatory violations were committed and defends companies and individuals in negotiation and litigation with U.S. government agencies.

With her extensive experience in global corporate compliance, Joan routinely advises senior management and boards of directors on best practices for compliance with U.S. and international legal requirements and regulations and the consequences of law enforcement inquiries, including the development of a defense strategy, government disclosures, disciplinary actions, and the enhancement of compliance policies and procedures and internal controls. She has handled matters around the world for companies in the manufacturing, life sciences, mining and extraction, financial services, transportation and logistics sectors and assisted them in conducting global risk assessments and audits, developing and implementing compliance programs, creating remediation plans and developing emergency/crisis management strategies. Joan has been recognized multiple times by the National Association of Corporate Directors as one of the most influential professionals in corporate governance.

Before joining Benesch, Joan was a partner at Baker McKenzie for more than ten years, where she served as practice chair of the Compliance & Investigations group and as the Washington, D.C. office litigation chair. She also served as practice chair of Thompson Hine's Government Enforcement, Internal Investigations and White Collar Defense Group. Before entering private practice, she held several high-profile government positions, including serving as senior counsel to the Deputy Attorney General at the U.S. Department of Justice, where she advised on complex criminal litigation, including corporate frauds such as falsely inflating revenue, insider trading and accounting schemes, and managed the operation of the president's Corporate Fraud Task Force. She also developed the Department's corporate charging and monitorship policies. Joan also held a variety of positions in the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Western District of Michigan, including First Assistant and Chief of the Criminal Division, and she was a criminal prosecutor in Chicago at the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. Additionally, she worked as a senior trial attorney in the Division of Enforcement at the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission where she prosecuted investment frauds involving the commodity futures markets.

Credentials

EDUCATION

- Loyola University Chicago School of Law, J.D.
- Creighton University, B.A.

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

- District of Columbia
- Illinois
- Michigan
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit

Memberships

- American Bar Association
- Chicago Bar Association

Awards & Recognition

- Listed, *The Best Lawyers in America®*, Criminal Defense: White Collar, 2026-2027
- Listed as a Litigation Star by Benchmark Litigation, 2023, 2024
- Listed in The Legal 500 (Corporate Investigations and White Collar Criminal Defense), 2021, 2022
- Selected to Law360's Compliance Editorial Advisory Board, 2021, 2022, 2023
- Selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America® 2021 to 2024 for Criminal Defense: White-Collar Crime
- Top 5 Global Investigations Practice (as D.C. chair of Baker McKenzie's Compliance & Investigations practice), Global Investigations Review (2016 & 2017)
- 100 Most Influential People in Corporate Governance and the Boardroom, National Association of Corporate Directors (2016 & 2017)
- Elite FCPA Practice (as D.C. chair of Baker McKenzie's Compliance & Investigations practice), Global Investigations Review (2016)
- Deal of the Year, Latin Lawyer (2016)
- Department of Justice Director's Award
- National Award from the Center for Missing and Exploited Children

News & Insights

- 126 Benesch Attorneys Recognized in 2027 Best Lawyers® Rankings
  August 20, 2026 | Press Releases
- 129 Benesch Attorneys Recognized in 2026 Best Lawyers® Rankings
  August 21, 2025 | Press Releases
- Benesch Of Counsel Joan Meyer Quoted in Politifact Article on Presidential Pardons
  December 20, 2024 | Media Mentions
- Patrick Beisell and Joan Meyer Mentioned in Crain's Chicago People On the Move
  October 22, 2024 | Media Mentions