



## Marisa T. Darden

Lead, White Collar, Government  
Investigations & Regulatory  
Compliance Practice

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## Overview

**Marisa is a former state and federal prosecutor who assists clients across myriad industries. As the Chair of the White Collar, Government Investigations & Regulatory Practice Group, Marisa actively advises companies and individuals in defense of civil and criminal investigations and prosecutions brought by law enforcement and regulatory agencies. Marisa has successfully tried more than 15 complex criminal cases to verdict and has argued before the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.**

In addition, Marisa has advised clients, litigated, and conducted internal investigations on a range of issues, such as allegations of wrongdoing in violation of federal and state law, including the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, bribery, corruption, the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, and other criminal and civil violations of law. She has handled investigations in federal court regarding wire and mail fraud as well as complex financial investigations. Marisa regularly conducts corporate inquiries surrounding allegations of sexual harassment and workplace discrimination, civil rights and Title IX violations, and other corporate malfeasance.

Marisa began her career as a litigator in New York. She was part of the team that liquidated the largest broker-dealer in U.S. history, which ultimately administered more than U.S. \$100 billion in assets. Marisa clerked for the Honorable Morrison C. England in the Eastern District of California, and worked as an Assistant District Attorney in the New York County (Manhattan) District Attorney's Office. She is also an adjunct faculty member at Case Western Reserve School of Law, lecturing on criminal law.

## Representative Matters

- Represented a professional basketball player accused of conspiracy and wire fraud for allegedly attempting to avoid paying child support and taxes for several years.
- Represented a consumer products company in an internal investigation regarding allegations of racial bias and a hostile work environment involving a human resources manager.
- Represented a member of the leadership team at a public Big 10 state university in a dispute involving allegations that the dean of the business school was improperly removed from his position after failing to mandatory report allegations of staff improper behavior, in violation of Title IX.
- As a Federal Prosecutor, prosecuted several individuals and group drug dealers as part of an opioid taskforce resulting in several landmark sentences.
- As a Federal Prosecutor, prosecuted the first case that challenged a non-U.S. resident with international drug trafficking in the Northern District of Ohio.
- Member of legal team that represented the largest broker-dealer liquidation in U.S. history.
- Represented pharmaceutical sales representative in large DOJ and HHS investigation into kickback scheme initiated by a Qui Tam relator.
- Represented the Board of Directors in one of the largest RICO investigations in U.S. history in the energy sector, resulting in a deferred prosecution agreement with the Government.

## Credentials

### EDUCATION

- Duke University School of Law, J.D.
- The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), General Course, Sociology
- University of Michigan, B.A., Political Science

### BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

- Ohio
- New York
- Former Assistant United States Attorney, Northern District of Ohio
- Former Assistant District Attorney, New York County District Attorney's Office
- Law Clerk to the Honorable Morrison C. England, United States District Court, Eastern District of California

## Memberships

- CLC Leadership Cleveland Class of 2026
- Executive Board, William K. Thomas Inn of Court
- Board of Directors, Federal Bar Association, Northern District of Ohio Chapter
- Board of Directors, Rainbow Babies & Children's Foundation
- Board of Directors, College Now
- Member, Duke Law Alumni Association Board of Directors
- Member, The Links, Incorporated

## Awards & Recognitions

- Listed, Benchmark Litigation, Future Star, 2026
- Listed, Chambers USA Leading Lawyers, Litigation: White Collar Crime & Government Investigations, 2025-2026
- Recipient, *Crain's Cleveland Business* 2025 Notable Litigators and Trial Attorneys Award
- Recipient, *Crain's Cleveland Business* 2024 Notable Black Leaders Award
- Recipient, *Crain's Cleveland Business* 2022 Women of Note Award
- Selected by United States District Judge Dan A. Polster as his Honor's delegate to the Sixth Circuit Judicial Conference, May 2018
- Listed, Ohio Super Lawyers, Criminal Defense: White Collar, 2025-2026

## Clerkships

- Law Clerk for the Honorable Morrison C. England, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California

## News & Insights

- [Feds Set Their Sights on Ohio: Unpacking the Federal-State Partnership](#)  
June 22, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- [Law360 Publishes Analysis by Benesch's Marisa Darden, Kevin Frankel and Zachary Cobb on Limits of Wire Fraud Enforcement](#)  
June 18, 2026 | Contributed Content & Presentations

- [Benesch Recognized as Leading Law Firm by Chambers USA 2026 with Record Growth in National and Regional Rankings](#)  
June 4, 2026 | Press Releases
- [Who Cares About the Wires: Texas Federal Court Rules that Certain Wire Fraud Charges Violate Due Process in Tax Case](#)  
May 18, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- [The Devil is in the Details: DOJ Provides New Insights Regarding National Fraud Enforcement Division's Priorities](#)  
April 23, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- [A&E Crime + Investigation Quotes Partner Marisa Darden on Defendant Testimony Risks](#)  
April 13, 2026 | Media Mentions
- [White House Taps Vice President to Lead New "Task Force to Eliminate Fraud"](#)  
April 7, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- [Benesch Partner Marisa Darden Interviews with NewsNation on Maduro Defense Funding Dispute](#)  
March 26, 2026 | Media Mentions
- [Benesch Partner Marisa Darden and Associate Bianca Smith Named Finalists in Corporate Counsel's 2026 Women, Influence & Power in Law Awards](#)  
March 18, 2026 | Press Releases
- [DOJ Solidifies Its Universal Policy for Corporate Cooperation Credits](#)  
March 12, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights

## Speaking & Events

### PAST EVENTS

- [Analyzing the FCPA Shift, Recent Case Updates and New Guidelines | Marisa T. Darden](#)  
September 18, 2025 | Speaking Engagement
- [Compliance, ERM, and IRM: Risk Management Trends in 2025 | Marisa T. Darden](#)  
June 2, 2025 - June 3, 2025 | Speaking Engagement
- [Signal-gate Unlocked: Striking the Balance Between Secure Communications and Legal Oversight in Government | Marisa T. Darden](#)  
May 1, 2025 | Speaking Engagement
- [Why Enterprises Simply Can't Take CISA and the FBI's Guidance at Face Value | Marisa T. Darden](#)  
April 30, 2025 | Speaking Engagement
- [Contracts Unleashed: Practical Approaches to Third-Party Risk Management in Contracting | Marisa T. Darden](#)  
March 25, 2025 | Speaking Engagement