



Robert J. Kolansky

Cleveland

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Overview

Robert focuses his practice in the areas of white collar criminal defense, sensitive corporate investigations, regulatory compliance, and business litigation. A former federal and state prosecutor, Robert leverages his extensive government experience and relationships to the benefit of his clients.

Robert's clients include corporations and individuals facing federal and state government investigations involving allegations of corruption, economic crimes, fraud, including securities fraud, mail and wire fraud, bank fraud, money laundering, and RICO. He has advised and defended healthcare providers in connection with criminal fraud investigations and regulatory compliance, including federal grand jury investigations. He regularly conducts internal investigations for companies and has assisted clients in developing corporate compliance programs.

Robert is an accomplished prosecutor with a distinguished career in both federal and state court. As an Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio, he investigated and prosecuted individuals and conspiracies for violations of a variety of federal laws, including domestic and international money laundering, mail fraud, wire fraud, narcotics, firearms, and RICO offenses. Robert oversaw some of the most complex investigations handled by the U.S. Attorney's Office during his tenure, including 18 federal Title III wiretap investigations, leading to the dismantlement of complex domestic and international criminal organizations. Robert successfully tried 11 federal jury trials, each resulting in a favorable verdict for the United States. In 2021, he was honored as the Assistant United States Attorney of the Year for the Northern District of Ohio, reflecting his dedication and excellence in the field.

Prior to his work as a federal prosecutor, Robert represented the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as an Assistant District Attorney in Montgomery County for more than five years, where he tried numerous complex criminal cases to verdict. Robert also has significant appellate experience, having prepared successful briefs before the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals and the Pennsylvania Superior Court.

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.

Credentials

EDUCATION

- Villanova University, Charles Widger School of Law, 2013, Juris Doctor
 - Jeffrey S. Moorad Sports Law Journal
 - Special Projects Editor, 2012 - 2013; Staff Writer, 2011 - 2012
 - "Can We Really Ascribe a Dollar Amount to Interpersonal Communication? How Phonedog v. Kravitz May Decide Who Owns a Twitter Account", published Fall 2012
- Bucknell University, 2010, Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Minor in Religion

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

- Ohio
- Pennsylvania
- New Jersey
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

Memberships

- Member, Federal Bar Association, Northern District of Ohio Chapter
- Member, Bluecoats, Inc.
- Board Member, EDWINS Leadership & Restaurant Institute

Awards & Recognition

- Listed, Ohio Super Lawyers – Rising Stars, White Collar Criminal Defense, 2026
- *Assistant United States Attorney of the Year* - United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Ohio, 2021
- *Commendation, "Operation EverStart"* - Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele, 2018
- *Recognition for Dedication to Duty and Service to the Citizens of Montgomery County* - Montgomery County Detective Bureau's Violent Crime Unit, 2018
- *Commendation* - Towamencin Township Police Chief Timothy Dickinson, 2017
- *Outstanding Prosecutor Award* - Pennsylvania Narcotics Officers' Association, 2016

News & Insights

- [Feds Set Their Sights on Ohio: Unpacking the Federal-State Partnership](#)
June 22, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- [The CFTC's New Cooperation Playbook: What Practitioners Need to Know About Letter No. 26-15](#)
June 4, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- [DOJ Strikes Again: Healthcare Fraud Enforcement Escalates as DOJ Deploys West Coast Strike Force](#)
May 13, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- [White House Taps Vice President to Lead New "Task Force to Eliminate Fraud"](#)
April 7, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- [2026 Proposed Amendments to the Federal Sentencing Guidelines-Key Changes for Economic Crimes](#)
March 6, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- [Dance Like No One is Watching, Text Like Your Words Will Be Published on the Front Page: The Importance of Internal Compliance with FINRA and Text Message Production](#)
March 5, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- [Columbus Business First Features Benesch Insight on Point-Shaving and Sports Gambling](#)
February 5, 2026 | Contributed Content & Presentations
- [From New Division to New Leadership: White House Appoints National "Fraud Czar"](#)
January 30, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights
- [48 Benesch Attorneys Selected to 2026 Ohio Super Lawyers and Rising Stars](#)
January 27, 2026 | Press Releases
- ["Point-Shaving" Scandal Rocks NCAA Men's Basketball - Federal Indictment Exposes Widening Risk of Game Fixing in College and Professional Basketball](#)
January 16, 2026 | Client Alerts & Insights

Speaking & Events

PAST EVENTS

- Federal Enforcement Priorities: Compliance Strategy for Trucking, Trade, and Corporate Risk | Robert J. Kolansky
June 1, 2026 - June 3, 2026 | Speaking Engagement
- A Look Into the Future of Title IX's Sex and Gender Discrimination Regulations Post-Election 2024
November 12, 2024 | Firm Events