

Women's White Collar Defense Association Launches Global Enforcement Trends & Compliance Best Practices Series with Panel of Senior U.S. Government Officials

<u>Women's White Collar Defense Association</u> (WWCDA) hosted a panel discussion in Washington, D.C. on April 11, featuring top officials from the capital's largest regulatory and enforcement agencies. The discussion, titled *Views from the Top*, kicked off WWCDA's four-part *Global Enforcement Trends & Compliance Best Practices Series* by shedding light on the enforcement priorities and challenges agencies are facing in 2022.

The featured panelists included Assistant Attorneys General for the Department of Justice Kenneth Polite (Criminal Division), Jonathan Kanter (Antitrust) and Hampton Dellinger (Office of Legal Policy), as well as Drug Enforcement Administration Administrator Anne Milgram, Securities & Exchange Commission Enforcement Director Gurbir Grewal and Federal Trade Commission Enforcement Director Holly Vedova (Bureau of Competition). Dechert partner and WWCDA Programs Committee Co-Chair Hartley West moderated the event, which was hosted in person at Ropes & Gray's D.C. office and virtually.

"Thank you to the WWCDA Programs Committee for organizing this wonderful event. WWCDA members truly value opportunities to build their knowledge of compliance, enforcement and regulatory issues as key areas that shape many of our practices every day," said Karen Popp, Global Chair and Cofounder of WWCDA. "To have these leaders share their insights with our members and the broader legal community was an extraordinary opportunity and furthers WWCDA's goals to help advance women in the field of white-collar law and compliance through educational opportunities and networking. We look forward to hosting more *Global Enforcement Trends & Compliance Best Practices Series* conversations throughout 2022."

According to the panelists, their agencies have a busy year ahead, as they prepare for an increase in litigation, navigate and leverage emerging technologies and look at new approaches to hiring new talent. Key points raised in the *Views from the Top* discussion include:

- 1. **Agency enforcement actions will increase in the coming year.** Panelists predict an uptick in enforcement actions and related litigation in 2022. Several agencies are investing resources in preparation, including hiring new attorneys.
- 2. **International relationships continue to be important for enforcement.** Several of the panelists emphasized that information sharing and other collaboration with their counterparts in foreign jurisdictions is a critical component of an effective enforcement strategy. Some noted that such collaboration has been impacted by the Russian aggression in Ukraine.
- 3. **Agencies are increasingly relying on data analytics** to guide their identification, prioritization, and prosecution of enforcement actions.
- 4. Emerging technology poses challenges to investigations, while also presenting opportunities. Agencies are navigating how to gain access to records that lie hidden in newer communications

- technologies and social media, including encrypted messaging apps and ephemeral messaging platforms. Criminal and other fraud schemes involving digital currencies continue to attract significant attention.
- 5. There is a renewed emphasis on the victims of crime. Panelists said that during investigations, clients should expect questions from agencies regarding what outreach they have done to mitigate the damage their actions have caused victims and their communities.
- 6. **Diverse hiring is a priority right now for agencies.** Panelists explained that their agencies are prioritizing diversity, equity, and inclusion in their own agencies and in the appointment of third-party monitors.

Disclaimer: The panelists were not operating as official representatives of their respective agencies. All views expressed during the panel were the personal views of the individual panelists.

WWCDA's next *Global Enforcement Trends & Compliance Best Practices Series* event is scheduled for June 2022, both virtually and live in London and Washington, D.C. WWCDA Programs Committee Co-Chair and Ropes & Gray partner Amanda Raad will moderate a panel of government and in-house practitioners discussing *Effective Compliance Programs and Value in Global Resolutions* (considering best practices, things to avoid, and real-life application of existing guidance). To learn more about WWCDA and additional events, please visit wwcda.org.

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Founded in 1999, with the goal of addressing the large gender gap in white collar law and compliance, the Women's White Collar Defense Association (WWCDA) promotes the common business and professional interests of women attorneys and other professionals who specialize in the representation of corporations and individuals facing government enforcement actions, internal investigations, compliance and ethics matters.

WWCDA promotes diversity in the legal profession, facilitates networking and business development, and provides educational programming. WWCDA initiatives facilitate women connecting, collaborating, and advancing in white collar defense around the world.

The WWCDA has grown to more than 2,700 members in 45 chapters throughout North America, Europe, Latin America and Asia Pacific. WWCDA Chapters are located in Washington, D.C., New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Atlanta, New Orleans, Dallas, Houston, Indianapolis, Pittsburgh, Denver, Phoenix, San Diego, Seattle, Connecticut, Florida, New Jersey, North Carolina, Tennessee/Alabama, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Oregon/Idaho, Puerto Rico, London, Ireland, France, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Italy, Germany, Toronto, Vancouver, Québec, Brazil, Peru, Hong Kong, Japan, Australia, India, and Spain.

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