



J. Bruce Maffeo

Senior Counsel

New York

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Bruce is a former federal and state prosecutor who has practiced criminal law for over 40 years. He has tried virtually every type of criminal case, from securities fraud to murder, and has represented individuals ranging from celebrities to indigent clients. As a result of his professional accomplishments, Bruce was inducted in 2009 as a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers and served a two-year term as chair of its Downstate New York Committee. He recently appeared as one of four moderators of a week-long conference in Malta on counterterrorism, sponsored by the International Institute of Justice and the Rule of Law.

Bruce routinely conducts high-profile internal investigations on a range of issues for labor unions and businesses, including allegations of corruption and sexual and racial discrimination. Recent engagements include investigations involving the executive director of the National Hockey League Players' Association, the internationally renowned opera singer, Placido Domingo, and a nationally recognized cancer treatment institute. In addition, he served for 10 years as the Ethical Practices Officer for AFSCME District Council 37, New York City's largest municipal union, where he was responsible for investigating allegations of financial corruption and other forms of impropriety among that union's 120,000 members and officers.

Before entering private practice, Bruce was a prosecutor in the U.S. Department of Justice's Organized Crime Strike Force for the Eastern District of New York. There, he was responsible for bringing several historic RICO prosecutions, including the indictment of the hierarchy of a Long Island-based Laborers Union and the first major prosecution of the savings and loan crisis of the 1980's, a case that dramatically expanded the scope of liability for union pension fund advisers. Bruce testified in the case before the U.S. Senate Banking Committee about the challenges involved in investigating complex financial crime cases.

In addition to his fellowship in the American College of Trial Lawyers, Bruce consistently has been selected as a Super Lawyer and Best Lawyer in his practice area. He is admitted to practice law in the states of New York and New Hampshire, as well as the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York, the Districts of Connecticut and New Hampshire, the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court.

Experience

Secured a no-jail plea deal for a construction contractor who was prosecuted for commercial bribery involving contracts tied to New York high-rise buildings.

Conducted an internal review of the senior leadership of a prominent non-profit education provider based in New York City.

Conducted an internal investigation surrounding diversity and inclusion issues for a nationally recognized cancer research institute.

Conducted an internal investigation on behalf of the National Hockey League Players Association.

Practice Areas

- White Collar Defense & Investigations
- Securities Litigation & SEC Enforcement

Education

- Boston University School of Law, J.D., 1979
- Boston University, B.A., 1974

Bar Admissions

- New Hampshire
- New York

Court Admissions

- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
- U.S. District Court -- Eastern District of New York
- U.S. District Court -- Southern District of New York
- U.S. Supreme Court
- U.S. District Court -- New Hampshire
- U.S. District Court -- Connecticut

Awards & Honors

- Best Lawyers in America – Criminal Defense: White Collar (2010-2025)
- Best Lawyers in America – “Lawyer of The Year” – Criminal Defense: General Practice – New York City (2023)
- New York Super Lawyers (2009-2018, 2020-2024)

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Represented the president of an international union in successfully negotiating a resolution of a multi-year corruption investigation.

Represented a prominent union-side accountant charged with filing a false IRS form. The matter concluded with the client receiving a non-custodial sentence.

Served as lead counsel to a car carrier in a five-year federal antitrust investigation into price-fixing, bid-rigging, and customer allocation by all major players in the roll-on/roll-off shipping industry. After extensive negotiations, the carrier pleaded guilty to one count of Sherman Act conspiracy in exchange for a reduced fine with no forfeiture or restitution.

Represented a manager of a national manufacturer of aluminum hydrochloride charged with participating in a bi-lateral conspiracy to rig bids who was sentenced to probation after the government offered a dramatically discounted plea on the eve of trial. We also successfully concluded the carry-on civil litigation with no payment or admission of wrongdoing ending a five-year representation.

Representing two container carrier clients in an antitrust U.S. Department of Justice investigation, opened in March 2017, into meetings of voluntary shipping alliances (VSA) within the ocean carrier industry. A total of 19 companies have been subpoenaed in connection with the investigation.

Conducted separate internal investigations on behalf of two national labor unions into allegations of sexual harassment by the internationally acclaimed opera singer Placido Domingo and workplace harassment involving the suicide of the longest-standing member of the cast of Chicago.

Successfully represented the former Executive Assistant to the General President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters in an internal disciplinary proceeding brought by a court-appointed monitor.

Successfully negotiated a non-criminal disposition of former Mixed Martial Arts Champion Conor McGregor in an assault case brought by the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office.

Negotiated a non-criminal disposition of a leading New York interior construction firm in a years-long investigation brought by the New York County District Attorney's Office.

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