



Calli Jo Padilla

Member
Co-Chair, Women's Initiative

Philadelphia

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As a member in the firm's White Collar Defense & Investigations practice group, Calli delivers exceptional representation to corporate and individual clients in criminal matters and regulatory and enforcement actions. Her practice includes advising clients in matters arising under the False Claims Act (FCA), the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), health care fraud, financial services fraud, securities fraud, mail and wire fraud, antitrust violations, and pandemic-related fraud. She is the co-author of the firm's Whistleblower Watch, a quarterly publication presenting notable FCA enforcement actions, settlements, and legal trends.

Calli also devotes a significant portion of her practice to conducting internal investigations. She has led investigations pertaining to allegations of workplace harassment and hostile work conditions and allegations of harassment and assault in athletic programs and academic institutions. To that end, Calli frequently advises clients regarding implementation of remedial measures, recommendations, and corporate governance and compliance programs.

Calli also maintains a robust civil practice, representing corporations and individuals in complex commercial and business litigation matters. She has represented clients in both state and federal courts in a variety of disputes, including breach of contract, common law fraud, antitrust, casualty defense, and catastrophic tort matters, among others. Calli guides her clients through all stages of complex litigation – initial pleadings through discovery, motion practice, mediation, trial, and even appeals. She has tried several cases to verdict or judgment and has secured numerous dismissals, judgments, and favorable settlements for her clients.

Calli also has significant experience advising NCAA coaches and student-athletes on NCAA matters pertaining to eligibility, recruiting, and amateurism. As a former student athlete herself, she has successfully counseled several clients through NCAA enforcement proceedings.

Calli is also a committed firm leader. She is currently the co-chair of the Women's Initiative, dedicated to the development and enhancement of professional and personal relationships among female attorneys and clients. She has served as the firm's hiring partner and, prior to that, chaired the firm's Associate Committee. Calli remains actively involved in summer associate and lateral recruiting, as well as in the mentoring of junior attorneys. As someone who is committed to serving her community, Calli regularly represents clients on a *pro bono* basis. She serves on the Eastern District of Pennsylvania's Attorney Panel for *Pro Se* Prisoner Civil Rights Cases and does work with the Pennsylvania Innocence Project and the Support Center for Child Advocates.

Prior to joining Cozen O'Connor as an associate, Calli participated in the firm's Summer Associate Program. Calli received her law degree, *cum laude*, from the Villanova University School of Law, where she was a managing editor of the Villanova Law Review and the president of the Women's Law Caucus. Calli received a degree in politics from Princeton University, where she served as the captain of the women's varsity softball team.

Experience

Practice Areas

- White Collar Defense & Investigations
- Commercial Litigation
- Securities Litigation & SEC Enforcement
- Antitrust & Competition

Education

- Villanova University School of Law, J.D., *cum laude*, 2011
- Princeton University, B.A., 2007

Bar Admissions

- New Jersey
- Pennsylvania

Court Admissions

- U.S. Supreme Court
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
- U.S. District Court -- Eastern District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court -- Middle District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court -- Western District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court -- New Jersey
- U.S. District Court -- Eastern District of Michigan

Affiliations

Member, Women's White Collar Defense Association, Philadelphia Chapter

Member, Executive Committee of the Federal Criminal Law Committee, Eastern District of Pennsylvania Chapter

Member, Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

Awards & Honors

- Pennsylvania Super Lawyers (*Rising Star* - Business Litigation) 2018-2023
**This award is conferred by Super Lawyers. A description of the selection methodology can be found here. No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.*
- *Philadelphia Business Journal* 2020 Women of Distinction Rising Star

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Criminal Defense

- Represented an individual under criminal investigation by the Philadelphia U.S. Attorney's Office for participation in a fraud conspiracy. Our advocacy convinced the U.S. Attorney to decline to prosecute our client entirely.
- Represented horse trainer in criminal prosecution in the Southern District of New York for administering performance-enhancing drugs.
- Represented a family identified in the Varsity Blues College Admission Scandal.
- Represented a college basketball coach in the NCAA Pay-For-Play Basketball Scandal.
- Represented a skilled nursing facility facing allegations of health care fraud, and convinced the U.S. Department of Justice to terminate its False Claims Act (FCA) investigation into the matter.
- Represented an international supplier of automotive parts in connection with a federal antitrust investigation. We convinced the U.S. Department of Justice to drop the investigation without any charges filed against the client.
- Represented various individuals in state court criminal proceedings.

Internal Investigations

- Conducted an investigation for a private equity fund into allegations of embezzlement by a former executive.
- Conducted an internal investigation for a university regarding allegations of harassment in its athletics department.
- Conducted an investigation for a technology company into allegations of sexual harassment and financial reporting violations.
- Conducted an investigation for an insurance company in liquidation pertaining to allegations of potential fraud and other malfeasance.
- Assisted with an audit of a prominent university's interactions with minors and assisted with the preparation of recommendations of new, multi-disciplinary policies and procedures to govern those interactions to minimize risk of abuse.
- Assisted with an internal investigation for The Wine Advocate, a pre-eminent publisher of wine ratings and criticism, into allegations of impropriety by former associates.

Civil Litigation

- Secured a victory, following a two-week FINRA arbitration hearing, for a boutique investment bank that works with companies raising funding by issuing "private placement" securities investments. A group of high net-worth investors sued the bank after investing in a Colorado start-up company that constructed and leased large-scale greenhouses to cannabis growers which ultimately filed for bankruptcy. A three-member arbitration panel denied the investors' claims that the bank misled them by failing to disclose disciplinary action by the NASD and state securities regulators against the company's CEO 25 years previously.
- Prevailed after a several day evidentiary hearing on claims for contempt and enforcement for violation of a permanent injunction prohibiting the use of our client's trademarks.
- Secured a judgment of more than \$1.1 million, after a five-day bench trial, on behalf of a client in the business of operating music venues and producing, staging, and hosting concerts. The client sought a refund of payments it made to operate a large amphitheater in Maryland after the defendant failed to reconstruct the venue's dressing rooms and other backstage facilities. In securing this victory, we overcame the defendant's argument that the client's recovery interfered in the renovations and was precluded by a limitation of damages provision.
- Prevailed after a 10-day bench trial for a subcontractor pursuing claims against a general contractor and a State Department of Transportation related to claims for breach of contract.
- Represented a corporate executive in a civil lawsuit brought under the False Claims Act regarding a

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health-care services company's alleged billing practices and violations of Anti-Kickback Statute and Stark Laws.

- Represented an insurance commissioner regarding an insurance company in rehabilitation and liquidation and related litigation.
- Obtained summary judgment from a state trial court for our client defending against negligence claims arising out of a construction accident.
- Obtained dismissal of claims of copyright infringement and related state law claims asserted against client arising out of various licensed software programs.
- Represented dozens of individual homeowners in claims against home builders for negligent construction and consumer fraud for improper construction of new homes.

Gaming And Sports

- Provided advice and counsel to an NCAA student-athlete regarding the student-athlete's eligibility for NCAA competition.
- Advised NCAA coaches on eligibility issues, including representation in enforcement proceedings.