



Gregory A. Vega

Shareholder & Litigation Department Chair



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Mr. Vega is a shareholder of the firm and chair of the firm's Litigation Department. Mr. Vega focuses on complex business matters, including representing clients before all federal, state and local regulatory agencies; implementing and evaluating corporate compliance issues; conducting corporate internal investigations; representing clients in civil tax controversy litigation; and white-collar criminal defense.

Practice Groups

- White Collar Criminal Defense/Government Investigations
- Cyber Planning & Response
- Finance/Corporate & Securities
- Litigation
- Cross-Border
- Transactional Tax Planning & Tax Controversy

Education

Mr. Vega received his B.S. from Indiana University in 1975. He earned his law degree from Valparaiso University School of Law in 1980 where he was a staff member of the *Valparaiso University Law Review*.

Employment Background

Prior to joining the firm, Mr. Vega was the U.S. Attorney, Southern District of California. He was also Assistant U.S. Attorney with the U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District of Indiana and Southern District of California 1983-1999 and was a tax attorney for the Chief Counsel's Office, Internal Revenue Service 1980-1983.

Representative Matters

- Represented United States Congressman charged with Illegal Personal Use of Campaign Funds
- Obtained dismissal of indictment for client charged with failure to maintain a reasonably designed anti-money laundering program
- Represented corporate executive in FCPA investigation of major retailer in Mexico
- Represented former CEO in shareholder derivative action resulting from government FCPA investigation
- Served as Department of Health and Human Services-approved Independent Review Organization (IRO) for publicly traded pharmaceutical company
- Obtained dismissal of indictment for individual charged with filing false tax returns
- Obtained dismissal of complaint for client in Federal Election Commission investigation
- Obtained dismissal of indictment for publicly traded utility company in Federal environmental crimes prosecution
- Successful defense verdict at trial of magazine publisher for breach of fiduciary duty
- Conducted internal investigation for multi-national corporation headquartered in Oslo, Norway

- Conducted internal investigation for major international retailer
- Successful representation of Tribal Chairperson of federally recognized Indian tribe in investigation by Federal government (prosecution declined)
- Successful defense of Los Angeles-based law firm in qui tam action filed in California state court (complaint dismissed)
- Represented company in contract dispute with national media firm related to issue of Federal Communications Commission closed-captioning requirements
- Represented aircraft chartering company in \$3 million breach-of-contract cause of action
- Investigated and prosecuted member of the San Diego City Council for failing to report gifts on state-required financial disclosure forms
- Investigated and prosecuted a Lake County, Indiana, Judge Pro Tem for judicial corruption
- Tax litigation before the U.S. Tax Court
- Investigated and prosecuted numerous bank fraud and tax fraud cases in U.S. District Court
- Represented Sweetwater Union High School District in San Diego County grand jury investigation
- Represented deputy district attorneys before San Diego County Civil Service Commission

Professional Affiliations & Admissions

- State Bar of California
- State Bars of Indiana and Illinois
- U.S. Seventh and Ninth Circuit Courts of Appeals
- U.S. Tax Court
- Attorney General's Advisory Committee (1999-2001)
- White Collar Crime Subcommittee, Attorney General's Advisory Committee (Co-Chair, 1999-2001)
- Hispanic National Bar Association (President, 1997-1998)
- Board of Legal Specialization, State Bar of California (1993-1996)
- Criminal Law Advisory Commission, State Bar of California (Chairman, 1992-1993; Member, 1989-1992)
- Merit Selection Panel, U.S. District Court, Southern District of California (2009 and 2017)
- Federal Judicial Selection Committee, Southern District of California (2004-2017)
- National Association of Former United States Attorneys (NAFUSA) (Member, 2001-present; President, 2015-2016)

Community Affiliations

- Selected and unanimously confirmed as a Commissioner on the inaugural City of San Diego Ethics Commission (2001-2005)
- San Diego County Regional Security Commission (2002-2005)
- National Conflict Resolution Center, Board of Directors (2004-2014)
- Casa Cornelia Law Center, Board of Directors (2018-present)

Publications & Speaking Engagements

Published Opinions

- *Lee v. C.I.R.*, 43 T.C.M. (CCH) 374 (1982)
- *Fishman v. C.I.R.*, 45 T.C.M. (CCH) 765 (1983)
- *Pfeifer v. C.I.R.*, 46 T.C.M. (CCH) 857 (1983)
- *Estate of Shantz v. C.I.R.*, 47 T.C.M. (CCH) 614 (1983)
- *United States v. Bailey*, 728 F.2d 967 (7th Cir. 1984)
- *United States v. Dack*, 747 F.2d 1172 (7th Cir. 1984)
- *United States v. Barreda*, 607 F.Supp. 419 (N.D.In. 1985)
- *United States v. Dominguez*, 783 F.2d 702 (7th Cir. 1986)
- *United States v. Rodriguez*, 636 F.Supp. 1522 (N.D.In. 1986)
- *United States v. Hayes*, 646 F.Supp. 146 (N.D.In. 1986)
- *United States v. Anderson*, 809 F.2d 1281 (7th Cir. 1987)
- *United States v. Washington*, 669 F.Supp. 1447 (N.D.In. 1987)
- *United States v. Rodriguez*, 831 F.2d 162 (7th Cir. 1987)
- *United States v. Ramos*, 832 F.2d 85 (7th Cir. 1987)
- *United States v. Zambrana*, 841 F.2d 1320 (7th Cir. 1988)
- *United States v. Zambrana*, 846 F.2d 1494 (7th Cir. 1988)
- *United States v. Doering*, 909 F.2d 392 (9th Cir. 1990)
- *United States v. Mal*, 942 F.2d 682 (9th Cir. 1991)
- *Herring v. Teradyne*, 256 F.Supp.2nd 1118 (S.D.Ca. 2002)

Professional Awards & Honors

- Recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America* (2012-present)
- Recognized in *San Diego Super Lawyers* magazine for Criminal Defense: White Collar (2013-present)