

LARSON · O'BRIEN_{LLP}

FCPA AND ANTI-CORRUPTION LAW PRACTICE

Former United States District Judge Stephen G. Larson leads Larson O'Brien LLP's team of lawyers who have successfully assisted clients with the challenges posed by the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) and in responding effectively (and efficiently) to investigations by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) aimed at potential targets around the world. Larson O'Brien LLP has represented companies in FCPA, UK Anti-Bribery Act, and other anti-corruption investigations covering such diverse industries as mining, entertainment, securities, real estate, and energy. The firm has defended (and in most instances avoided criminal charges against) companies, corporate executives, as well as federal, state, and local public officials. Larson O'Brien lawyers have conducted training, compliance, and investigative work specifically related to the FCPA in London, Beijing, Mexico City, Guatemala City, Johannesburg, and throughout the United States.

The firm has 17 dedicated and disciplined complex litigation attorneys who handle the most sophisticated civil and criminal disputes and internal investigations. Those with specialized backgrounds in FCPA and related anti-corruption statutes include:



Stephen G. Larson, a former U.S. District Judge appointed by President George W. Bush and a former Assistant U.S. Attorney (AUSA), who served as chief of the organized crime section, leads the practice. Larson spent nearly 20 years working daily in the federal courts as a prosecutor and judge before returning to private practice handling high-profile white collar litigation and investigations. He was lead trial counsel for one of three defendants in a rare FCPA case that actually resulted in a federal trial (*United States v. Lindsay Manufacturing, et al.*). Larson's defense culminated in a post-trial dismissal of the indictment against his client when he proved governmental misconduct during the investigation and prosecution of the case. Larson also helped a real estate development partnership and its managing partner navigate civil and criminal bribery charges—in what Governor Jerry Brown described as one of the most significant corruption cases in California history—by obtaining a dismissal with prejudice of the \$102 million civil

lawsuit against the partnership. The win was recorded in a published opinion by the California Court of Appeal. In August, Larson successfully defended a former DEA agent accused of fraud and false statements in a criminal trial in the Central District of California, obtaining a dismissal of all charges at the close of the government's case-in-chief. Larson has traveled extensively throughout Asia, Central Asia, Europe, and Africa on behalf of the DOJ and the U.S. Department of State. Larson is a graduate of the Georgetown School of Foreign Service and USC Gould School of Law. He is admitted to practice in California and the District of Columbia, and has appeared for argument before both the California Supreme Court and United States Supreme Court.



Robert C. O'Brien is an experienced trial lawyer with many wins in the state and federal courts as well as in arbitral proceedings. He served as chair and a wing arbitrator in over a dozen international arbitrations and has been a federal court-appointed special master in several of the largest recent cases in the Central District of California. Last year, O'Brien lead Larson O'Brien's internal investigation that uncovered financial wrongdoing in the high-profile Warren Capital case in San Francisco. He has headed FCPA investigations in Africa and Asia. The *Daily Journal* recognized O'Brien as one of the top 100 lawyers in California. O'Brien served as the U.S. Alternate Representative to the 60th session of the United Nations General Assembly, and was appointed by the President to serve on the U.S. Cultural Property Advisory Committee. He was the founding Co-Chairman of the Department of State Public-Private Partnership for Justice Reform in Afghanistan, serving under both Secretary Rice and Secretary Clinton. O'Brien was a Major in the

Judge Advocate General's Corps of the US Army Reserve and a senior legal officer at the UN Security Council (UNCC) in Geneva, Switzerland, where he investigated government claims against Iraq arising out of the first Gulf War. O'Brien graduated *cum laude* from UCLA and received his JD degree from the UC Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall). He is admitted to practice in California.



Steven E. Bledsoe is a former litigation share partner at Kirkland & Ellis and is an experienced trial lawyer who has successfully tried and arbitrated cases in both domestic and foreign jurisdictions. Bledsoe has conducted FCPA and anti-corruption related investigations for corporations and on behalf of governments domestically, as well as in Africa and Southeast Asia. Bledsoe represented a major U.S. health care provider in a multi-year SEC investigation and has also led numerous corporate internal investigations, including an internal investigation concerning one of the largest alleged Medicare frauds in U.S. history and, most recently, an internal investigation involving tens of millions of dollars in missing investor funds.



Jerry A. Behnke is a former Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) and a former Deputy District Attorney (DDA) with 18 years of experience investigating and prosecuting complex white collar criminal cases. Behnke has extensive experience handling federal and state anti-corruption and regulatory matters. Behnke previously served as an AUSA in the Southern District of California where he was a member of the Major Frauds and Special Prosecutions Section. Behnke also previously served as an AUSA in the Central District of California, where he was a Deputy Chief in the Riverside branch office. Before his work as a federal prosecutor, Behnke served as a DDA for Riverside County.



Melissa A. Meister is a former federal prosecutor and experienced trial attorney who has extensive experience handling anti-corruption, complex fraud, government contract, and securities matters. Meister previously served as an AUSA for the District of Arizona and the Southern District of California and a Trial Attorney in the False Claims Act Section at DOJ. Meister has tried multiple cases to verdict and she has briefed and argued dozens of appeals throughout the United States. Meister regularly represents corporations and executives in internal investigations and audits involving allegations of fraud, bribery, violations of the securities laws, and/or corporate malfeasance. Meister graduated summa cum laude and Order of the Coif from The University of Arizona College of Law. During law school, Meister was an editor for the Arizona Law Review and the winner of her law school's moot court competition. She

clerked for the Hon. William C. Canby on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and is admitted to practice in California, Arizona, and the District of Columbia.

The Larson O'Brien team's FCPA trial track record, proven legal judgment, keen sense of international politics, experience in government, and tireless dedication to their clients make them an extraordinary asset in educating, ensuring compliance and, if necessary, aggressively defending against FCPA and other anti-corruption investigations and prosecutions. With their unique backgrounds, the lawyers of Larson O'Brien command the courtroom and have forged critical relationships of mutual respect with officials at both the DOJ and the SEC, the agencies principally responsible for enforcing the FCPA and other federal anti-corruption laws, as well as with officials at foreign enforcement agencies.

Please contact Stephen G. Larson at 213.436.4864 or slarson@larsonbrienlaw.com with any inquiries regarding our FCPA and Anti-Corruption Law Practice.

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