



Robert S. Silverblatt

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Rob Silverblatt is a partner in the firm's White Collar Defense and Investigations practice group. A former Department of Justice trial attorney, Rob has substantial experience serving as lead counsel on legally and factually complex cases.

Rob represents companies and individuals in matters involving a variety of regulatory and enforcement agencies, including the Department of Justice and the Securities and Exchange Commission. Rob also has an active congressional investigations practice and assists clients with preparation for hearings and briefings and with responses to requests for documents and information. Additionally, drawing upon his experience as a litigator at the Tax Division of the United States Department of Justice, Rob represents clients in tax controversies, including Internal Revenue Service audits and tax litigation.

Rob's experience includes:

- Representing clients in an array of Department of Justice matters, ranging from civil False Claims Act litigation to criminal investigations and prosecutions.
- Handling contentious audits and serving as lead counsel on tax-related investigations and litigation, with subject matters including the employee retention credit, transferee liability, research and development credits, and deductions for charitable donations.
- Assisting public and private company CEOs and other executives in preparing for interviews and testimony, including in front of Congress and grand juries.
- Conducting internal investigations for companies and assisting them with identification and remediation of legal and reputational risks.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Rob began his career in 2013 as an associate in the firm's Government Enforcement practice group. He represented individuals and companies in front of the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority.

Between 2015 and 2016, Rob clerked for Judge Thomas L. Ambro on the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Between 2016 and 2021, Rob was a trial attorney at the Tax Division of the United States Department of Justice. While there, Rob litigated cases in federal district and bankruptcy courts, with subjects including tax shelters, fraudulent transfers, undisclosed foreign bank accounts, injunctive relief against tax return preparers, and alter ego liability. Rob handled all aspects of litigation, including depositions, trials, and evidentiary hearings.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Rob received Outstanding Attorney awards from the Department of Justice in 2018, 2019, and 2020.

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Civic Director, Council for Court Excellence
- Fellow, American Bar Foundation

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Panelist, Sun, Sand, and Scutiny: IRS Enforcement of Puerto Rico Act 22 Residency, 31 October 2025
- Panelist, ABA Criminal Tax Fraud and Tax Controversy Conference, 2024
- Panelist, ABA May Tax Meeting, 2023

EDUCATION

- J.D., Georgetown University Law Center, 2013 (*magna cum laude*, *Order of the Coif*)
- B.A., Tufts University, 2009 (*magna cum laude*)

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of District of Columbia
- Bar of Virginia
- Supreme Court of the United States
- United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

- United States District Court for the District of Columbia
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan
- United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan
- United States Tax Court

LANGUAGES

- Spanish

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP POWERED BY HUB

- 29 September 2025, Prosecutor, Jury, and Judge? Courts Split on IRS Penalty Power Post Jarkesy
- 12 February 2025, President Trump Orders FCPA Freeze; DOJ Announces Major Policy Realignment De-Emphasizing Corporate Investigations and Enforcement
- 15 March 2024, Dialing for Dollars: US Department of Justice Announces New Whistleblower Pilot Program
- 2 November 2021, DOJ Announces Major Changes to Corporate Criminal Enforcement Policies

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- "[DOJ Announces Major Changes to Corporate Criminal Enforcement Policies](#)," *Westlaw Today* powered by *Reuters*, 8 November 2021

NEWS & EVENTS

- 29 September 2025, K&L Gates' White Collar Team Shortlisted for *Global Investigations Review* Awards
- 14 January 2025, K&L Gates Secures Victory for Ocean Harvesters in False Claims Act Whistleblower Lawsuit
- 15 November 2024, K&L Gates Named Among the Top 30 Investigations Firms Worldwide by *Global Investigations Review*
- 2 January 2024, K&L Gates Names Nearly 30 Partners, Government Affairs Advisors Across Firm

OTHER MEDIA MENTIONS

- Quoted, "[Tax Bar Eyes Puerto Rico Act 60 Criminal Case Selection](#)," *Tax Notes*, 17 November 2025
- Quoted, "[Michigan nursing home sues the IRS, claiming it's owed a \\$4.9 million tax refund](#)," *mLive.com*, 23 September 2025

- Quoted, "[Defendants seek dismissal of lawsuit alleging fraudulent ownership scheme of Omega Protein](#)," *The Breeze, Virginia Mercury, and Yahoo! News*, 16 July 2024
- Mentioned, "[US Seeks \\$18.4M FBAR Penalty from Texaco Heiress' Estate](#)," *Law360*, 17 May 2021
- Mentioned, "[Florida Tax Preparer Barred Forever Over Fraudulent Returns](#)," *Law360*, 28 January 2021
- Mentioned, "[Biz Owner Siphoned Funds in \\$2.8M Tax Row, 11th Circ. Finds](#)," *Law360*, 14 December 2018
- Mentioned, "[Rough Day for 'Chip' Fattah in Return to Court](#)," *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 11 July 2017

AREAS OF FOCUS

- White Collar Defense and Investigations
- Tax Controversy and Litigation
- US Congressional Investigations

INDUSTRIES

- Life Sciences

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

DOJ Investigations and Litigation

- Obtained rare post-indictment deferred prosecution agreement for the former CEO and Board Chairman of Russia's largest privately held banking group after making widespread challenges to the government's evidence and obtaining a suppression order in a criminal enforcement matter brought by DOJ's KleptoCapture Task Force and the US Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York alleging violation of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA).
- Represented a global public company in a criminal investigation by DOJ involving alleged violations of the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.
- Represented a former executive of a multinational corporation as a witness in a fraud and forgery prosecution.
- Represented a former financial company CEO in a wire fraud prosecution.
- Represented a public company CEO in grand jury testimony in an investigation by DOJ's Environment and Natural Resources Division.

Congressional Investigations

- Represented an online platform in investigations and hearings before multiple House and Senate committees.

- Represented a public affairs company in House Natural Resources Committee inquiry into energy industry public relations campaigns.
- Represented a nonprofit foundation in Senate Commerce Committee and House Oversight Committee inquiries related to energy policy advocacy.
- Represented a retirement system in House Judiciary Committee ESG investing inquiry and related hearing.
- Represented a public agency in an immigration-related inquiry by Senate Commerce Committee.

Tax Controversies

- Obtained full IRS concession in Tax Court litigation on behalf of partners of a mortgage business in a dispute over the deductibility of a settlement with DOJ.
- Obtained full IRS concession on behalf of a software company CEO in an audit pertaining to donor-advised fund transfers.
- Represented numerous taxpayers in IRS appeals and federal court litigation regarding entitlement to the employee retention credit.
- Represented former CEO in tax evasion prosecution.
- Represented an engineering firm in an IRS investigation into promotion of tax credits.
- Represented a healthcare company as a witness in a criminal tax investigation related to preparation of fraudulent returns.
- Represented a national nonprofit organization in an IRS audit regarding tax-exempt status.
- Represented a horticultural company in response to IRS requests pursuant to a tax treaty with a foreign government.
- Represented individuals in an IRS criminal investigation related to bank transfers.

False Claims Act

- Represented a maritime company in False Claims Act litigation related to vessel citizenship and obtained full dismissal in district court.
- Represented a restaurant group in a False Claims Act investigation related to Paycheck Protection Program funds.
- Represented a technology company in a False Claims Act investigation of small business grants.
- Represented a healthcare executive in a False Claims Act investigation regarding referral sources.
- Represented an international aviation industry service provider in a False Claims Act investigation related to pandemic relief funds.

SEC Investigations and Litigation

- Represented an individual in SEC securities fraud case in federal court in Boston; successfully opposed SEC's motion for summary judgment.
- Represented an investment banker in SEC case alleging sale of unregistered securities and securities fraud in federal court in New York.
- Represented an individual in federal securities fraud investigation related to cryptocurrency trading and promotion.

Internal Investigations

- Conducted an internal investigation for a multinational luxury fashion brand holding company related to sensitive matters involving legal and reputational risk.
- Conducted an internal investigation for a national retail chain related to compliance with immigration laws.

State AG Investigations

- Represented a multinational technology company in a state AG investigation related to marketing claims.
- Represented a healthcare company in consumer protection investigations by multiple state AGs.
- Represented a public company CEO in a state AG criminal investigation pertaining to tax credits.

Inspector General Investigations

- Represented a multinational mobile payment company in a Small Business Administration inspector general investigation related to CARES Act funding.
- Represented an international aviation industry service provider in connection with Treasury inspector general inquiries related to pandemic relief funds.
- Represented a property tax service provider in a Social Security Administration inspector general inquiry regarding use of agency's logo.