Abigail L. Peluso



Partner

Direct: 312.471.8774 **Email:** apeluso@rshc-law.com

Abbie Peluso is a trial lawyer who focuses on complex commercial litigation, government enforcement actions, internal and external investigations, and white collar criminal matters.

Abbie has a keen ability to distill complicated facts and evidence into understandable, simple concepts. Abbie is also adept at preparing witnesses to testify under challenging circumstances and conducting investigations involving potentially high-profile and sensitive allegations.

Prior to returning to private practice, Abbie served for over 11 years as an Assistant United States Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois, in both the Civil and Criminal Divisions. Abbie led civil investigations involving False Claims Act violations, government contracting fraud, research grant fraud, and allegations of employment discrimination. Abbie also prosecuted complex criminal cases, including matters involving public corruption, financial fraud, and health care fraud. As a Deputy Chief in the General Crimes Section, she trained and supervised new federal prosecutors, oversaw hundreds of grand jury investigations, and led the Office's Human Trafficking Program, supervising all sex trafficking and labor trafficking matters in the district. Abbie led teams in complex jury and bench trials, and she briefed and argued appeals before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

Abbie is the Deputy Chair of both the General Litigation Team and the White Collar, Investigations & Compliance Team.

EXPERIENCE

Representative Engagements

- Obtained a defense verdict for an international insurance company, in a federal jury trial alleging bad faith refusal to settle and seeking damages in excess of $1 billion.
- Obtained over $14 million in settlement proceeds for a plaintiff in a federal wrongful conviction lawsuit.
- Led prosecution team in a complex case involving a 15-count indictment, three defendants, and allegations regarding a decade-long conspiracy to commit sex trafficking.
- Conducted a joint investigation with the DOJ's Civil Fraud Section of a corporation and six individuals related to fraudulent billing practices at a major hospice company. Served as a trial attorney for the criminal trial, including handling all expert testimony.
- Conducted a civil investigation of a medical practitioner accused of fraudulent billing practices and served as a trial attorney in the related criminal trial, including handling the direct examination of all experts and cross-examination of the defense expert.

CREDENTIALS

Education

Loyola University Chicago School of Law, J.D., 2007
- Regional Champion, National Moot Court Team
- Best Oralist Award, Intraschool Moot Court

University of Wisconsin, B.A., Legal Studies, 2004

Bar Admissions

Illinois
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois (Trial Bar)

Professional Memberships

Leadership Greater Chicago (LGC)
- Fellow (2024)

Legal Aid Chicago, Ambassador's Board
Women's White Collar Defense Association
- Chicago Chapter, Member

Teaching Appointments

Adjunct Professor of Law, Loyola University School of Law (2015-2017)

Honors & Awards

The Best Lawyers in America, *Best Lawyers®* (Criminal Defense: White Collar, 2027)
Notable Leaders in Accounting, Consulting & Law, *Crain's Chicago Business* (2026)
Lawdragon 500 Leading Litigators in America, *Lawdragon Inc.* (2027)
Legal 500 Chicago Elite (White Collar Crime, 2026)
Leading & Emerging Women Lawyer in Illinois, *Chicago Lawyer Magazine* (2026)
HSI Executive Associate Director Award for Outstanding Investigative Accomplishments – Child Exploitation (2022)
Illinois Leading Lawyer in Commercial Litigation (2022-2026) and Criminal Defense Law: White Collar (2022-2025), *Law Bulletin Media Leading Lawyers*
FBI Director's Award for Superior Performance (2013)

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- "Corporate Guardians: Trends and Considerations Affecting Gatekeeper Liability," (co-panelist) Securities Docket Webcast (December 9, 2024)
- "Protecting the Privilege During an Internal Investigation," (co-panelist) Federal Bar Association Chicago Chapter CLE Webinar (April 17, 2024)
- "Conducting Successful Internal Investigations," (co-panelist) Perrin Conferences Webinar Sponsored by RSHC (October 10, 2023)
- "Hot Topics 2022: Focus on Infrastructure and Pandemic Relief Funds," (co-moderator) American Bar Association (ABA) Civil False Claims 2022 Virtual Conference (September 14, 2022)
- "An Allied Front Against Ransomware," (co-author) *Best Lawyers Legal Insights* (November 4, 2021)