

Leksa Pravdic

Associate

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Leksa Pravdic supports clients through sensitive internal investigations, government regulatory action, and high-stakes litigation. To every matter, Leksa brings strong legal reasoning, research, and drafting skills along with a problem-solving and strategic mindset.

Leksa has represented clients in domestic and international government investigations and enforcement actions, including both civil and criminal matters. She has represented individual clients in U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) investigations, with outcomes including DOJ's decision not to prosecute one client and a favorable misdemeanor plea bargain for another. Leksa is also experienced in conducting sensitive internal investigations for corporate and government clients, including those resulting from whistleblower complaints and Board of Directors' concerns. In commercial litigation matters, Leksa brings her robust drafting, research, and strategic skillset to advise clients on litigation risk and strategy, draft dispositive motions, spearhead the discovery process, and prepare for trial.



EXPERIENCE

Representative Engagements

Regulatory Defense

- Represented investment firm in complex SEC subpoena response.
- Represented Big 4 accounting firms in variety of regulatory investigations brought by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB), SEC, DOJ, and Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (PSI).

Civil Litigation

- Defended national retail store and employees against federal lawsuit alleging discrimination and civil rights abuses.
- Represented investment firm in civil litigation suing former executives for financial malfeasance and related torts in Illinois state court.
- Represented commercial real estate purchaser in federal lawsuit against real estate seller for breach of contract, surviving motion to dismiss.

Internal investigations

- Represented financial exchange firm in internal investigation into whistleblower allegations of internal audit misconduct and controls failures.
- Represented Board of Trustees of a university in internal investigation into allegations of misconduct and ethical violations by university leadership.
- Represented Board of publicly traded company in internal investigation into allegations of mismanagement by former C-suite executives

Criminal Defense

- Defended former executive of company under investigation by DOJ for food safety-related violations, successfully obtaining closure of DOJ's investigation without charges.
- Represented former logistics manager under investigation by DOJ for violations of Customs and Border Patrol laws, obtaining favorable misdemeanor plea bargain.
- Represented witness in COVID-related fraud DOJ case, including responding to document subpoena and preparation for grand jury testimony.

Pro Bono

- Represented wrongfully convicted client throughout Post Conviction Proceedings.
- Represented transgender woman from Honduras in asylum petition and appeal.
- Represented prisoner in Section 1983 civil litigation.

CREDENTIALS

Education

Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, J.D., 2021, *magna cum laude*

Order of the Coif

Northwestern University Law Review, Associate Editor

Corporate Criminal Law Research Assistant

Center on Wrongful Convictions Clinic (2019-2021)

The College of William and Mary, B.A., Hispanic Studies, 2012, *magna cum laude*

Phi Beta Kappa

Bar Admissions

Illinois

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

Languages Spoken & Fluency

Spanish, Fluent

French, Conversational

Portuguese, Conversational