

# Daily Journal

DECEMBER 18, 2024

## Top White-Collar Lawyers 2024

Our annual list honoring the top performing attorneys specializing in white-collar law.



### CAZ HASHEMI

WILSON SONSINI GOODRICH  
& ROSATI  
PALO ALTO

**C**az Hashemi has been practicing law since 1997 and currently serves as the chair of Wilson Sonsini's litigation department, which comprises more than 250 attorneys. Before joining the firm in 2000, Hashemi worked as an enforcement attorney with the SEC's division of enforcement, where he investigated potential violations of federal securities laws.

"I recognized that joining the SEC would provide me with the chance to work on securities enforcement cases early in my career, including deposing witnesses and managing cases independently at a relatively young age," he said. "This

exposure to the securities laws not only deepened my interest in the field, but also provided the foundational experience that has shaped my legal career."

Hashemi has represented several high-profile clients in complex SEC investigations. One notable case involved Cloopen, a China-based company, which faced an investigation concerning accounting misstatements and related disclosures. Hashemi successfully negotiated a settlement with no financial penalty, despite the company having to restate its financial statements.

The SEC recognized Cloopen's extensive cooperation, which included providing detailed explanations of restated transactions, translating key documents from Chinese and summarizing witness interviews from China, he said. Hashemi added this cooperation significantly advanced the efficiency of the SEC's investigation and saved valuable resources.

"The Cloopen case primarily centered around financial restatements — a complex and sensitive issue commonly found in such matters. We were pleased to obtain the result we did when faced with significant allegations of securities fraud," Hashemi said.

Another significant matter involved Meta Materials, where Hashemi represented the company in an SEC investigation into public disclosures and related matters concerning its reverse merger public

offering. This investigation presented unique issues of first impression, including retail investors, short selling activity and related disclosures. Despite the challenges, Hashemi's approach led to a favorable outcome, with the case concluding with a relatively modest \$1 million fine.

"The Meta Materials case presented unique challenges as a case of first impression, requiring innovative legal strategies to navigate uncharted territory," Hashemi said.

As the legal landscape evolves with changes in administration, Hashemi said he remains keenly interested in how regulatory priorities will shift. While traditional areas like insider trading and accounting fraud are expected to continue being focal points, there is speculation that some issues that dominated the prior administration's focus may lose emphasis, potentially signaling a change in enforcement strategies by agencies such as the SEC and the Department of Justice.

"Although certain politically charged areas may see a reduction in attention, I expect the government will remain vigilant in traditional areas," he said. "For white-collar defense practitioners, this period of transition presents a critical opportunity to reassess strategies and anticipate how the evolving regulatory landscape will impact our work in the coming years."