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TOP WHITE COLLAR LAWYERS 2021

Hashemi represents public companies and individuals caught in the crosshairs of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. He steps in when companies or officials receive subpoenas and inquiries from the commission to help them through those investigations.

He also leads internal investigations for companies or their boards and committees. But as a former SEC enforcement attorney himself, "Every element of the SEC world is some part of my practice," Hashemi said.

For instance, he represented a former Walgreens chief financial officer when the SEC launched an investigation of the company over allegations of misleading investors during its merger with European pharmacy giant Alliance Boots. While Walgreens paid a \$34.5 million penalty, Hashemi's client reached a \$160,000 settlement that excluded fraud allegations. Hashemi won a partial summary judgment in related shareholder litigation in November. *Washtenaw County Employees' Retirement System v. Walgreen Co.*, 1:15-cv-03187 (N.D. Ill., filed April 10, 2015).

Last year, he resolved a commission probe of App Annie, which provides market data to mobile app makers.

He is currently representing NortonLifeLock, formerly Symantec, in an SEC inquiry that followed an internal investigation by the company's audit committee. A settlement of a

related civil lawsuit was preliminarily approved in September. *SEB Investment Management AB v. Symantec Corp.*, 3:18-cv-02902, (N.D. Cal., filed May 17, 2018).

A large portion of his practice deals with defending companies accused of violating the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. In his most public FCPA case, he settled SEC allegations involving a Chinese subsidiary of telephone and videophone maker Polycom. He also won a declination to prosecute from the Justice Department in Dec. 2018.

He said the FCPA work is especially challenging and interesting because it demands awareness not only of U.S. law, but also local laws, customs and considerations. As one example, China adopted a new data privacy law in September. "You need to be nimble and know what's going on locally there," he said. "It brings an interesting element to the practice."

With a new administration in Washington, Hashemi said SEC enforcement activity is picking up and will continue to do so. "I've seen it in almost every area, from FCPA to insider trading to disclosure cases," he said.

Besides his own matters, Hashemi chairs Wilson Sonsini's litigation department. "I help shape the strategic vision of the department and how we're trying to grow." As one example, he is working to increase the number of partners by 20 to 25 percent to-



CAZ HASHEMI

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ward the firm's "strategic initiative to increase our bet-the-company kind of litigation," he said. "We've done a lot of growth in that area."

— Don DeBenedictis