

Caz Hashemi

PARTNER

Litigation

Palo Alto

chashemi@wsgr.com

650-320-4827



FOCUS AREAS

Board and Internal Investigations
Corporate Governance
Litigation
FCPA and Anti-Corruption
Government Investigations
Litigation
Securities Litigation
Strategic Risk and Crisis Management
White Collar Crime

HIGHLIGHTS

- Government and Internal Investigations Expertise**
Caz is recognized as one of the best securities defense attorneys in the country and regularly represents clients in government and internal investigation matters.
- A Trusted Litigator**
Caz has been named as a top securities litigator by *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*; a "Top White Collar Lawyer" by the *Daily Journal*; and a leading litigator by *Lawdragon*, among others.
- Represents Industry-Leading Clients**
Caz's clients have included many innovative, leading companies, including Gen Digital, HDFC Bank, Infosys, Lumentum, Lyft, Netflix, Polycom, Seagate Technology, Wipro, and Upstart Networks.
- Prior SEC Enforcement Experience**
Caz previously served as an enforcement attorney in the SEC's Division of Enforcement.

EXPERIENCE

Caz Hashemi is head of the firm's litigation department and is nationally recognized as one of the top attorneys in his field of practice, regularly representing clients in high stakes litigation and investigation matters.

Caz was named as one of the best securities enforcement defense attorneys in the country by *The Securities Docket*, under their "Enforcement 40" list. *The Daily Journal* recognized Caz as one of California's "Top White Collar Lawyers" in 2021, 2022, and 2023. Caz also has been named as one of the nation's 500 leading litigators by *Lawdragon*. Additionally, *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business* recognized Caz for his securities litigation practice, noting that he is "held in particularly high regard for his abilities in handling investigations and enforcement actions brought by the SEC, as well as advising on defending securities litigation claims brought by investors." *Chambers* also quoted a source who commented that "Caz is extremely thoughtful and strategic, and he has a real knack for understanding the dynamics with disparate stakeholders and gaining the trust and confidence of board committees and corporate leaders as his clients. He has impeccable judgment, he sees around the corners, and is a fierce and effective advocate."

Clients turn to Caz for his proactive approach and strategic direction. He has substantial expertise advising clients on the most complex and sensitive issues, including whistleblower allegations, financial restatements, accounting and disclosure items, cybersecurity breaches, artificial intelligence matters, Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) investigations, and insider trading.

Audit committees and special committees often call upon Caz to conduct internal investigations.

Prior to joining the firm, Caz served as an enforcement attorney with the SEC's Division of Enforcement.

Select Public Representations

- Gen Digital (formerly Symantec Corporation) in numerous shareholder lawsuits and a publicly reported SEC investigation; lawsuits were favorably resolved and the SEC investigation closed with no enforcement action
- HDFC Bank and its executives in a securities class action lawsuit; the district court granted defendants' motion to dismiss
- Netflix in a publicly reported SEC investigation of first impression related to the application of Regulation FD and the use of social media; no enforcement action filed
- Lyft in a publicly reported SEC investigation related to public disclosures; matter was favorably resolved
- The Special Committee of Hyzon Motors in a publicly reported internal investigation
- The former CFO of Walgreens in a securities class action lawsuit and a publicly reported SEC investigation; both matters favorably resolved
- Align Technology and its executives in a securities class action lawsuit in a case of first impression; the district court granted defendants' motion to dismiss and the Ninth Circuit affirmed dismissal
- Inogen and its executives in a securities class action lawsuit; the district court granted defendants' motion to dismiss
- Polycom in its publicly reported resolution with the DOJ and SEC regarding FCPA violations
- The former Chief Communications Officer of eBay in a lawsuit pending in the District of Massachusetts
- Seagate Technology in a securities class action lawsuit pending in the Northern District of California
- Upstart Networks in a securities class action lawsuit pending in the Southern District of Ohio
- Certain former officers of Katera in a lawsuit pending in the District of Delaware
- Certain former directors of NewAge in a lawsuit pending in Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware
- Founders of Solid Financial Technologies in a lawsuit pending in Delaware Chancery Court

Select Non-Public Representations

- Lead counsel for a public company in an SEC investigation related to disclosures concerning a reverse merger
- Lead counsel for a crypto mining company in an SEC investigation related to FCPA issues
- Lead counsel for an international public company in an SEC investigation related to a financial restatement
- Lead counsel for the former CEO of a publicly traded company in a government investigation related to public disclosures regarding AI capabilities
- Lead counsel for a multinational technology company in an SEC investigation related to a cybersecurity breach
- Lead counsel for a multinational technology company in an FCPA investigation
- Lead counsel for a public fintech company in an SEC investigation regarding public disclosures
- Lead counsel for a software company in an SEC investigation related to FCPA issues in five different regions, including Asia, Russia, Brazil, Middle East, and Eastern Europe
- Lead counsel for the former CIO of a publicly traded company in connection with a cybersecurity breach; no enforcement action filed
- Lead counsel for a private company in an SEC investigation related to Reg A offerings
- Lead counsel for a global technology company in an SEC investigation regarding public disclosures
- Lead counsel for a special review committee investigation in connection with a demand
- Lead counsel for an audit committee investigation related to potential FCPA issues
- Lead counsel for an analytics and data company in an SEC investigation
- Lead counsel for a telecommunications company in an SEC investigation regarding executive compensation disclosures
- Lead counsel for the audit committee of a technology company in an internal investigation related to potential financial statement issues
- Lead counsel for the audit committee of a public company in an internal investigation regarding revenue recognition
- Lead counsel for a global computer and mobile accessories company in an SEC investigation regarding a financial restatement

- Lead counsel for a consumer-directed benefits company in an SEC investigation and shareholder lawsuits related to a financial restatement
- Lead counsel for a manufacturing and marketing energy storage company in an SEC investigation and securities class action involving a multi-year financial restatement relating to revenue recognition issues
- Lead counsel for several private companies in connection with SEC inquiries related to compliance with Rule 701 securities exemption
- Lead counsel for a technology company in an SEC investigation regarding potential FCPA violations
- Lead counsel for a technology company in an SEC investigation and securities class action relating to a financial restatement
- Lead counsel in numerous audit and special committee internal investigations
- Lead counsel before the SEC and DOJ on various FCPA investigations
- Lead counsel for numerous individuals in insider trading cases

CREDENTIALS

Education

- J.D., Washington University School of Law, 1997
Member, Washington University Law Quarterly; Author, "Preliminary Injunctions Pending Arbitration"; Winner, Moot Court Competition; Member, National Moot Court Team
- B.S., Chemical Engineering, Northwestern University, 1993
Member, Tau Beta Pi (National Engineering Honor Society)

Honors

- Recognized among the leading securities litigators in the 2021-2023 editions of *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*
- Recognized as one of *The Daily Journal's* "Top White Collar Lawyers" in California in 2021, 2022, and 2023
- Recognized in *Lawdragon 500 Leading Litigators* in 2022
- Recognized among the "Enforcement 40" for 2020 by *Securities Docket*

Admissions

- State Bar of California
- State Bar of Illinois
- Various U.S. District Courts
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

INSIGHTS

Select Speaking Engagements

- Moderator, "Cybersecurity, Climate and More – The SEC's Active Rulemaking Agenda and Its Impact on Issuers and Regulated Entities," Securities Enforcement Forum East 2023, October 2023
- Moderator, "Masterclass: Managing a True Corporate Crisis/Major Internal Investigation," Securities Enforcement Forum West 2023, May 2023
- Panelist, "Masterclass: Managing a True Corporate Crisis/Major Internal Investigation," Securities Enforcement Forum East 2022, November 2022
- Moderator, "SPACs, Climate and ESG, and Emerging Enforcement Priorities," Securities Enforcement Forum West 2022, May 2022