

Seth Cowell

OF COUNSEL

National Security
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FOCUS AREAS

Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS)
Defense Tech
FCPA and Anti-Corruption
Foreign Ownership, Control, or Influence (FOCI)
Government Contracts
Government Investigations
National Security and Trade
NewSpace
Regulatory

EXPERIENCE

Seth Cowell is Of Counsel in the Washington, D.C., office of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, where he counsels and represents domestic and foreign entities in national security-related areas, including matters before the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS). He also counsels clients on matters relating to federal government contracting under the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) and the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS), the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), and other laws and regulations concerning domestic and international business.

After graduating from law school, Seth was commissioned into the U.S. Air Force (USAF) as a member of the USAF Judge Advocate General's Corps. His last active duty assignment was at the Electronic Systems Center at Hanscom Air Force Base, where he served as government contracts counsel to small research and development (Small Business Innovation Research, or SBIR) programs and several multibillion-dollar programs.

After separating from active duty, Seth continued to advise on government contracts, fraud, and ethics as an Air Force civilian at Hanscom. He then took a position as the senior civilian legal advisor to a Department of Defense (DoD) organization tasked with supporting the USS Cole and 9/11 trials, as well as counter-threat finance. In 2015, Seth joined the National Security Division (NSD) of the Department of Justice (DOJ) as an operations attorney, where he prepared and presented applications under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA).

CREDENTIALS

Education

- J.D., University of Southern California, Gould School of Law
- B.S., Mechanical Engineering, University of Southern California
Magna Cum Laude

Honors

- Recipient, Assistant Attorney General Award for Excellence, 2017
- Recipient, Reginald C. Harmon Award for Outstanding Air Force Reserve Judge Advocate of the Year, 2011

Admissions

- Bar of the District of Columbia
- U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
- U.S. Court of Federal Claims

INSIGHTS

Select Publications

- Co-author, “DNI Issues First-Ever FASCA Order, Excludes Acronis from Intelligence Community Contracts,” Wilson Sonsini Alert, September 26, 2025
- Co-author, “Department of Defense Issues Final Rule on Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification Program for Its Contracts,” Wilson Sonsini Alert, September 12, 2025
- Co-author, “The FAR Part 12 Rewrite: Making Commercial Acquisitions More Streamlined,” Wilson Sonsini Alert, August 22, 2025
- Co-author, “Jupiter in Retrograde: Executive Order Blocks Transaction by Chinese Company,” Wilson Sonsini Alert, July 31, 2025
- Co-author, “FAR Part 35 Update: Making R&D Contracting More Accessible and Attractive,” Wilson Sonsini Alert, July 29, 2025
- Co-author, “Streamlining Innovation in Space-Related Acquisitions: OMB Proposes a Broadening of NASA’s Procurement Tools,” Wilson Sonsini Alert, July 21, 2025
- Co-author, “President Trump Issues ‘America First Investment Policy,’” Wilson Sonsini Alert, March 5, 2025

Select Speaking Engagements

- Presenter, “Know Your CFIUS and Export Control Risks: You Could be Subject to Mandatory Filing Requirements,” Massachusetts Export Expo, January 14, 2021