

A. Scott Bolden

Partner

A. Scott Bolden is a prominent trial and white collar defense lawyer whom companies and individuals turn to for representation in their most significant concerns. Scott has handled some of the most high-profile matters for elected officials, business leaders, athletes, and entertainers in and outside the nation's capital. He is also very comfortable handling such matters on the national stage. Scott is particularly adept at assisting clients in navigating crises that present significant legal, business, and reputational risks. Scott previously served as managing partner of the Washington, D.C., office and as an at-large member on the firm's executive committee.

As part of his multifaceted litigation practice, Scott has defended clients in local and federal courts in connection with civil RICO claims; fraud, including health care fraud, and breach of contract; False Claims Act violations; education matters; government contract claims and disputes; tort claims; and other commercial and regulatory litigation issues.

With respect to his white collar criminal defense practice, Scott has defended individuals and corporate clients in state and federal trials and grand jury proceedings in connection with money laundering, federal and state tax fraud, bank fraud, financial structuring, and other white collar criminal issues. He has also defended witnesses in depositions before House and Senate investigation committees. Additionally Scott has conducted internal investigations for major public and private corporations and has conducted SEC investigations and prosecutions, as well as corporate compliance with the federal sentencing guidelines and the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

For his work in defending his clients, Scott was recognized by his alma mater, Howard University, with the 2013 Distinguished Alumni Award in the Field of Law. Scott has also been inducted into the Washington Bar Association Hall of Fame, been named one of the 100 most influential lawyers in law and business by Savoy magazine and the American Business Journals, as well as Rainmaker of Year by the Minority Corporate Counsel Association. He is also a former recipient of the Washington Business Journal's Top Lawyer in the White Collar Crime category.

Representative Matters

White Collar Criminal Defense Litigation

- Successfully obtained a re-sentencing of time served for the lead defendant in the largest health care fraud case in the history of the United States after the defendant had been convicted on 20 felony counts, after the president of the United States had commuted his 20-year sentence, and after the Department of Justice sought to retry him on the six remaining hung counts from his original trial.



Washington, D.C.

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Education

Howard University School of Law, 1987, J.D., received a number of awards and scholarships

Morehouse College, 1984, B.A., received a number of awards and scholarships

Court Admissions

Supreme Court - United States
U.S. District Court - District of Columbia
U.S. District Court - Eastern District of Michigan
U.S. District Court - Southern District of New York

Professional Admissions

District of Columbia
Illinois
New York

- Defended a state government contractor charged with fraud, embezzlement, theft and racketeering with co-defendant, the former Senate Majority Leader in the state of New Mexico.
- Defended a Maryland elected state attorney against charges of federal criminal tax evasion brought by the Department of Justice.
- Defended a former Democratic leader from an eastern European country seeking asylum in the United States, while fending off criminal charges of money laundering, bank fraud, and other alleged crimes brought against him by foreign government officials.
- Successfully defended large real estate advisory company and its CEO in parallel proceedings against the SEC, DOJ, and civil claims brought by a Michigan pension fund.
- Successfully defended a wealthy African businessman and his companies in parallel proceedings involving DOJ civil and criminal proceedings, as well as the IRS for financial structuring claims – the largest such case in the history of Virginia and the Fourth Circuit.
- Defended the former emergency manager of Flint, Michigan under indictment for charges of conspiracy, fraud, and criminal negligence in connection with the Flint water crisis.
- Defended the “third” White House dinner crasher under investigation by the Secret Service and DOJ for fraud and possible violations of federal law.
- Sought and obtained dismissal of all charges against one of the lead defendants in a \$50 million theft from the District of Columbia Office of Tax & Revenue – the largest tax fraud case in the history of the nation's capital.
- Successfully defended high-profile NFL football player under federal investigation for sexual assault and witness tampering charges.

Civil/Commercial Litigation

- Led the defense of a large aerospace company under investigation by OSHA and the EPA for alleged safety and environmental violations in connection with the use and handling of hex chromium products on several U.S. Air Force bases around the country.
- Prosecuted trade secret, conspiracy, and breach of contract claims for a multibillion-dollar aerospace company in federal district court and the Eleventh Circuit.
- Defended one of the largest real estate companies in the United States in a targeted civil OIG investigation of the company regarding performance issues and whether the company acted in bad faith and committed fraud in brokering rental agreements on behalf of a U.S. government agency.
- Successfully settled a multimillion-dollar government contract claim against the chief financial officer of the District of Columbia for a Fortune 500, publicly traded IT company whose contract was terminated for cause.
- Successfully obtained a multimillion-dollar settlement of federal and state claims on behalf of a former MLB player wrongfully charged, convicted, and incarcerated for 27 years in a state penitentiary.
- Lead attorney on a team of firm lawyers/investigators investigating allegations of human trafficking at the largest hotel chain in the United States and Canada.
- On behalf of plaintiff members, prosecuted several claims of fraud, theft, and embezzlement against the largest African American sorority in the country.

Congressional Investigations

- Defended a healthcare data collection company before the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis regarding the award of a multimillion-dollar HHS contract; data on COVID-19 statistics, instead of the CDC.
- Defended a high-profile Georgian businessman in the Mueller investigation and before the House and Senate Intelligence committees.

- Defended large political polling, marketing, and advertising company in a House investigation into possible misconduct pertaining to improper letter writing advocacy campaign to influence a federal agency's decision-making process.
- Defended the former emergency manager for Flint Michigan in oversight and investigatory hearings before the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee.

Honors and Awards

- 2022 President Joseph R. Biden Lifetime Achievement Award Honoree
- Selected through peer review for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Commercial Litigation, 2023-2023
- 2021 recipient of the Ollie May Cooper Award from the Washington Bar Association
- 2020 member of The National Trial Lawyers: Top 100
- 2020 recipient of the Equal Justice Award from the National Bar Association;
- ScholarCHIPS Children of Incarcerated Parents Community Hero Philanthropy Award (2019)
- The National Bar Association's Cora T. Walker Award for corporate leadership, promoting diversity and the development of young lawyers in corporate America (2018)
- American Business Journal's 100 Most Influential Lawyers in America (2018)
- Savoy's 100 Best Diverse Lawyers in America (2018)
- Boy Scouts of America National Capital Area Council Attorney of the Year Award (2018)
- Minority Corporate Counsel Association Rainmaker Award (2018)
- Washington Bar Association Hall of Fame (2018)
- UNCF Masked Ball Leadership Award (2016)
- Greater Washington Urban League Presidents Award for Service (2016)
- Howard University School of Law Alumni Association Leadership Award (2016)
- Selected to the Washington, D.C., *Super Lawyers* list for Criminal Defense: White Collar, 2013-2020
- 2014 Presidential Star Award, The National Bar Association
- 2014 Champion of Law & Public Service Award, Morehouse College Alumni Association D.C. Chapter
- Howard University's Distinguished Alumni Award in the Field of Law (2013)
- Recreation Wish List Committee's Chairman's Award, and naming and dedication of the Bolden Room at the Southeast Tennis and Learning Center in Washington, D.C.(2012)
- D.C. Chamber of Commerce, Chamber's Choice Business Leadership Award (2012)

Publications

- 3 March 2023 DOJ issues revised guidance on business messaging and corporate compensation programs; Co-Authors: Daniel H. Ahn, Evan T. Barr, Mark E. Bini, Calvin Chan, Rosanne Kay, Francisca M. Mok, Michael J. Lowell, Rizwan A. Qureshi, James L. Sanders, Katherine J. Seikaly, Thomas H. Suddath, Kaela Dahan, Joanna M. Howe; *Reed Smith Client Alerts*
- 7 August 2020 My Story: A. Scott Bolden; *Washington Business Journal*
- 22 June 2019 Joe Biden's Eastland Comments Show that He Doesn't Get That Democrats Need Black Voters to Win in 2020; *NBC News Think*

- 8 June 2019 U.S. Attempt to Erase Harriet Tubman; *Black Press USA*
- 8 May 2019 The Case for Impeachment Against Trump and Barr; *Fox Opinion*
- 27 September 2018 Letter to a Rainmaker, 27 Years Later
- 6 December 2017 With Democracy Under Attack, it's Time to Protect American Elections; *The Hill*
- 1 January 1985 Constitutional Law - The Fourth Amendment Protective Order for Non-Violent Fleeing Felons; *Howard Law Journal*

Speaking Engagements

- 16 - 20 September 2019 Harvard Law School Fall 2019 Trial Advocacy Workshop (TAW), Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States "Trial Advocacy"
- March 2019 SpelHouse Professional Development Symposium DMV, Washington, D.C., United States "Keynote Speaker"
- November 2018 Black Entertainment and Sports Law Association Conference, Cabo San Lucas, Mexico "CLE: Recent Developments in Sexual Harassment, The #MeToo Movement and The Effect It Has on Corporations and Talent (Panelist)"
- July 2018 National Bar Association Corporate Counsel Leadership Summit, New Orleans, Louisiana, United States "Panelist"
- June 2018 Inspiring Fathers, Washington, D.C., United States "Celebrating Co-Parenting Awards Ceremony and Panel Discussion (Panelist)"
- May 2018 American Association of Blacks in Energy Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada, United States "Legislative Crossfire (Panelist)"
- March 2018 Gateway to Success Conference, Nashville, Tennessee, United States "How to Discuss and Negotiate Fair Compensation"
- February 2018 Lewis University, Black History Month, Chicago, Illinois, United States "Race, Racism and the Law (Keynote Speaker)"
- July 2017 National Bar Association Corporate Counsel Leadership Summit, Toronto, Ontario, Canada "Panelist"
- 2007-2017 Annual guest lecturer at Howard University School of Law "Defending an SEC Investigation"

Public Appearances

- Regularly appears on every major cable network to discuss race, politics, and the law, including: CNN's "Newsroom," "New Day," "The Lead with Jake Tapper," and the "Situation Room"; MSNBC's "The Rachel Maddow Show," "The Beat with Ari Melber," "Up With David Gura," and MSNBC Live"; Fox News's "Happening Now," "The Ingraham Angle," "Fox News at Night with Shannon Bream," and "Tucker Carlson Tonight"; TV ONE's "NewsOne Now"; and Fox Business Network's "Trish Regan PrimeTime," "Cavuto: Coast to Coast," and "Lou Dobbs Tonight." He has also appeared on ABC's "Good Morning America," "20/20," ESPN, "Roland Martin Unfiltered," and multiple local networks. Additionally, he offers commentary on social media: @asbthelaw.
- Regularly provides political and legal analysis on CNN, Fox National News, and MSNBC relating to Republican and Democratic politics, as well as, commentary on civil and criminal cases pending in local and federal courts across the country.

Notable Quotes

- 26 February 2021 "BigLaw Eyes HBCUs, But Rankings Mindset Still Prevails" *Law360*

- 23 May 2020 "From the NLJ Magazine: Black Firm Leaders on George Floyd and the Way Forward" *The National Law Journal*
- 22 May 2019 "Getting Into College Is a Lot Easier if Your Parents Went There. Here's Why." *Teen Vogue*
- 24 April 2019 "Georgian Businessman Offers More Texts With Cohen to Rebut Mueller Footnote" *BNN Bloomberg*
- 5 April 2019 "DC Council Member Calls for Investigation into Homeless Shelter Food Provider" *NBC Washington*
- 11 July 2018 "A. Scott Bolden: The Hardest Working Man in Big Law" *Savoy Magazine*
- Summer 2018 "The Rainmakers" *Diversity and The Bar Magazine*
- 10 May 2018 "Meet the Familiar Face Leading D.C.'s Reed Smith Once Again" *Washington Business Journal*
- 10 January 2018 "Bolden Takes Helm at Large D.C. Firm" *The Afro-American*
- 30 October 2017 "In Debate over National Anthem, Black Wealth Becomes a Target" *Washington Post*

Professional and Community Affiliations

- National Bar Association Political Action Committee – Chairman, Board of Directors (2017)
- Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies – Member, Board of Governors (2013 - present)
- Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia – Member, Board of Directors (2012 - 2015)
- Economic Club of Washington, D.C. – Member (1998 - present)
- Harvard Law School – Trial Adjunct Professor (2019 - present)
- Howard University School of Law – Member, Board of Visitors (2011 - present)
- Federal City Council - Member, Executive Board (2008 - 2013)
- Candidate for D.C. Council, At Large (2006)
- Individual Development Corporation – Board of Directors (1999 - 2013)
- D.C. Chamber of Commerce – Former Member, Board of Directors (1998 - 2013)
- D.C. Chamber of Commerce – Former Chairman (1998)
- District of Columbia Bar – Board of Governors (1999 - 2003)
- D.C. Chamber of Commerce Political Action Committee – Chairman (2000-2002)
- D.C. Democratic State Committee – Former Chair (2002 - 2004)
- D.C. Water and Sewer Authority – Former Board Member (1998 - 2002)
- District Court of the District of Columbia's Committee on Grievances – Member (1998 - 2003)
- Sequoia National Bank – Former Director (1998 - 2004)
- Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. (Life Member)

Clerkships

- Judge Luke Moore, Superior Court - District of Columbia