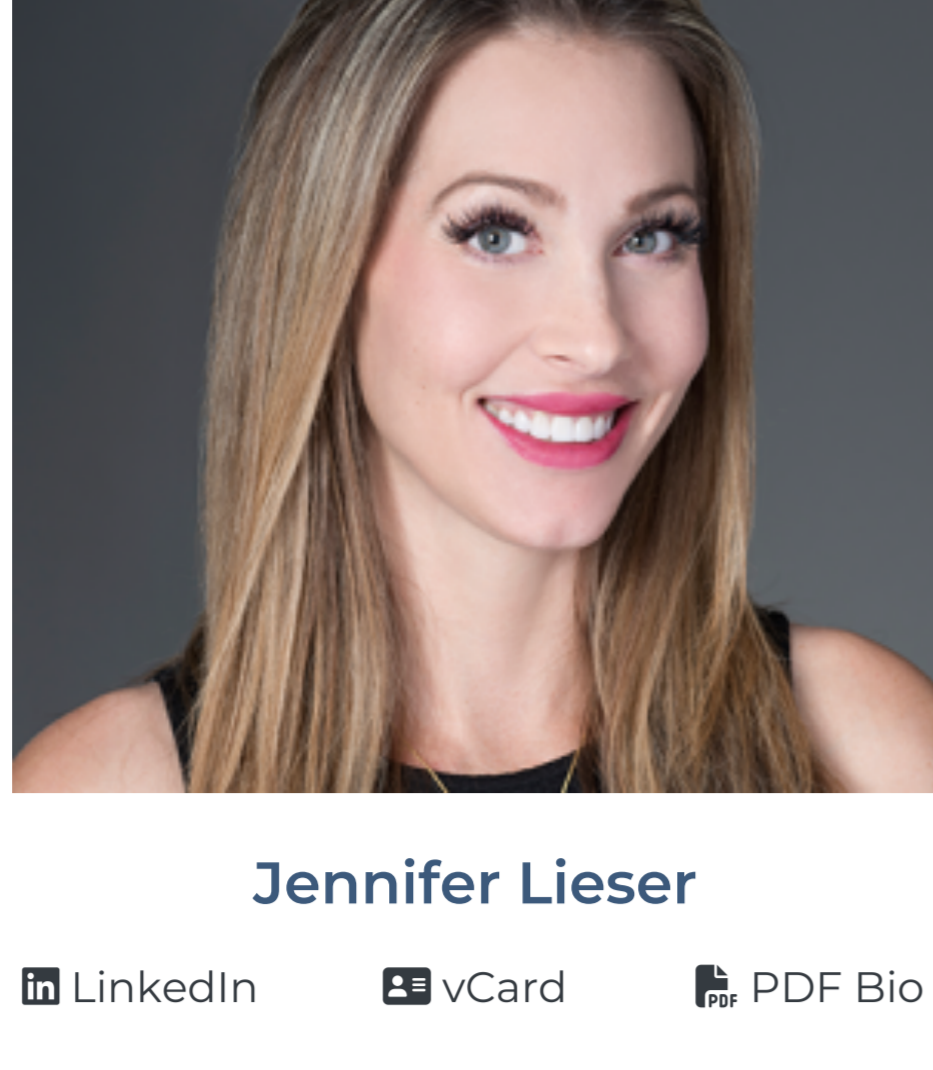


Jennifer Lieser

PARTNER



Jennifer Lieser

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FEATURED PRACTICES

BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL CRIMES
 TAX CONTROVERSY
 INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS
 INTERNATIONAL EXTRADITION
 MONEY LAUNDERING
 SENTENCING

70% LITIGATION; 30% INVESTIGATIONS

Jennifer Lieser is highly regarded in both legal and academic circles for her exceptional skills in litigating and investigating white-collar and complex criminal cases. Her expertise is widely recognized, earning accolades from peers and esteemed research and legal publications alike.

LEGAL AND CIVIC LEADERSHIP

Jennifer contributes to her colleagues as an active leader in white-collar defense lawyer associations. She serves as Criminal Justice Section co-chair for the Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles (WLALA); Social Media Committee Co-Chair, Young Lawyers Committee Vice Chair, and LA Chapter social media coordinator for the Women's White Collar Defense Association (WWCDA). She is a member of the White Collar Criminal Defense Committee of the National Association of Criminal Defense (NACDL) and the Criminal Justice Section of the American Bar Association (ABA).

Comprehensive and Collaborative Strategies for Criminal Defense

Jennifer is an esteemed practitioner renowned for her expertise in handling white-collar and complex criminal matters at a national level. Her approach is characterized by a holistic perspective and a strong emphasis on teamwork, leveraging a cadre of experts to achieve her clients' objectives. Jennifer's reputation as a formidable advocate is underscored by her capacity to dissect intricate legal issues, craft compelling arguments, and effectively present them both in and out of the courtroom. Whether through litigation or strategic negotiations with government agencies, Jennifer has a track record for delivering optimal outcomes.

Her practice spans a diverse range of complex criminal matters, including federal and state bribery and kickback cases, fraud investigations, money laundering offenses, cybercrime prosecutions, cryptocurrency regulatory issues, international extradition matters, and other white-collar and complex crimes. Jennifer's proficiency and strategic acumen have positioned her as a trusted advisor and advocate in the legal community, where she is recognized for her deep understanding of the complexities inherent in her field.

Through her nuanced approach and unwavering dedication to her clients' interests, Jennifer is known by colleagues and clients alike for her meticulous attention to detail and a commitment to achieving justice.

Transforming National Level Criminal Defense

Jennifer's ability to articulate complex legal principles and successfully argue on behalf of her clients has garnered her national attention, having won motions and achieving the dismissal of criminal cases throughout the country.

Prior to joining Kaplan Marino, Jennifer was with the Orange County Public Defenders where she first fell in love with the courtroom. Before attending law school, Jennifer worked in corporate public relations for one of the top private public relations firms in the world, and as marketing and public relations director for a medium-sized company. Jennifer's public relations and marketing background has been an asset to her legal career. Her ability to successfully promote large companies and diverse products has given her a unique edge in crafting clever legal arguments and confidently representing her clients both in and out of the courtroom.

A Background of Excellence

Prior to joining Kaplan Marino, Jennifer's career journey began with a foundation in corporate public relations, where she honed her skills at one of the world's leading firms in the field. Her experience extended to serving as a marketing and public relations director for a medium-sized company, where she gained valuable insights into strategic communication and brand management.

Jennifer's transition to law was informed by her early exposure to the courtroom as a member of the Orange County Public Defenders, an experience that ignited her passion for advocacy. Drawing on her background in public relations and marketing, Jennifer brings a unique perspective to her legal practice. Her ability to effectively promote large companies and diverse products has proven instrumental in crafting persuasive legal arguments and skillfully representing her clients.

This dual expertise not only enriches Jennifer's approach to litigation but also enhances her ability to navigate complex legal challenges with creativity and confidence.

At Kaplan Marino, Jennifer continues to leverage her comprehensive skill set to provide exceptional legal representation, building on her reputation for excellence and her dedication to client success.

TEAM MEMBERS >

RECENT NOTABLE MATTERS

Attorney Charged in Illegal Referral and Kickbacks Scheme - Case Dismissed

Attorney client was charged in an illegal referral and kickbacks scheme. Over the course of more than six years, we challenged by demurrer each charging instrument and succeeded, leaving the district attorney with little choice other than to recharge using a different mechanism. After the demurrer, the Court ordered the dismissal with prejudice, foreclosing the District Attorney the ability to recharge. The District Attorney did not appeal the decision.

Federal Criminal Case Dismissed

Luxury designer handbags importer/exporter client was accused of the illegal importation of hundreds of luxury bags worth more than half a million dollars as part of an international scheme in which false customs declarations were submitted in the importation of hundreds of Hermes bags from Europe and Asia, cheating the government out of significant duties. But the case began collapsing once we conducted our own investigation and litigated the actual falsity of the declarations which ultimately challenged the materiality requirement for the false statement regarding the bags' actual values to Customs, a highly technical issue. We argued that the bags still would have entered the United States even if there were no false statements and thus the crimes, as charged, did not actually occur. After nearly six years of litigation and negotiation, the government moved to dismiss the case which the Court granted.

Notably Favorable Varsity Blues Plea Deal

Client was the highest-ranking administrator indicted in the Varsity Blues college admission scandal. In this RICO, mail, and wire fraud case, the offenses carried up to 19 years in prison in what was said to be the largest college admissions scandal ever. Due to successful motions practice the Court significantly curtailed the government theories of prosecution and altogether dismissed the property fraud counts. 10 days before the trial was scheduled to begin in November 2021, a plea deal was reached wherein Dr. Heinel pled guilty to a single count of wire fraud. Dr. Heinel was sentenced to six months in custody. This term was significantly less than many other defendants with far less culpability.

Workers Comp Fraud Case Dismissed

Client was charged with workers compensation fraud for failure to pay workers compensation premiums for his employees. The charges alleged losses in excess of half a million dollars. We researched and investigated the issue and presented compelling evidence to the District Attorney. After consideration of that evidence, the LA District Attorney dismissed the case.

Client Sentenced to Probation

Our client was indicted in September 2015 with multiple counts of money laundering, capping, and tax fraud in what the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office described as a "\$150M insurance fraud. http://da.co.la.ca.us/sites/default/files/press/091515_15_Indicted_in_150_Million_Insurance_Fraud_Patient_Scam_Conspiracy.pdf Over the course of the next two years, a series of hearings on motions to dismiss would take place in which we would strategically dismantle the case. Ultimately, all the money laundering counts (10 total), all the capping counts (2 total), and all the tax fraud counts (4 total) were dismissed by the court. Faced with the likelihood of having the final single conspiracy count dismissed, the District Attorney's Office dismissed the case in its entirety only to refile a severely scaled-down criminal complaint charging only the money laundering and conspiracy counts. After exposing the weaknesses in the prosecution, the case was resolved for a \$5,000 restitution payment and two years' probation.

ACCOLADES

- BEST LAWYERS 'ONES TO WATCH,' 2024
- LAWDRAGON '500 X – THE NEXT GENERATION,' 2023-2024
- SUPER LAWYERS 'UP-AND-COMING TOP 50 WOMEN,' 2024
- SUPER LAWYERS 'UP-AND-COMING TOP 100 WOMEN,' 2024
- LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL 'WOMEN OF INFLUENCE' ATTORNEY, 2024
- LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL 'THRIVING IN THEIR 40S,' 2023
- LOS ANGELES TIMES 'MOST INSPIRATIONAL WOMEN NOMINEE,' 2021-2024
- SUPER LAWYERS 'RISING STAR,' 2018-2024
- LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL 'WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AWARD NOMINEE,' 2021-2023
- INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY EXPERTS, COMPLEX CRIMINAL LITIGATION LAW AWARD, 2021
- WOMEN'S WHITE COLLAR DEFENSE ASSOCIATION, SPOTLIGHT MEMBER, 2020
- DAILY JOURNAL 'TOP 40 UNDER 40,' 2020

MEDIA MENTIONS

"Jennifer and Nina have consistently demonstrated leadership, innovation, and excellence in the legal field. Their dedication to client success and commitment to elevating the practice of law make them truly deserving of this honor."
– Los Angeles Times, Inspirational Women Forum and Leadership Awards

Jennifer appears regularly as an attorney expert on national television and as a speaker/presenter at conferences throughout the country.

READ MORE >

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS & ADDRESSES

2024

REGULAR GUEST APPEARANCES AS AN ATTORNEY EXPERT ON NATIONAL TELEVISION, 2019-2024
- JUL 22, 2024

JENNIFER LIESER APPEARED ON SCRIPPS NEWS TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE SENTENCING IN THE HUNTER BIDEN CASE.
- JUN 11, 2024

[Read More...](#)

FEATURED PUBLICATIONS

Barry Russell Federal Practice Award Presentation, FBA-LA Newsletter

FBA-LA Holds United States Supreme Court Review with Dean Erwin Chemerinsky and 35th Annual Judge

Purging Racial Prejudice from the Administration of Justice, WLALA

The Dark Side of Bitcoin, Los Angeles Lawyer

Chapter 16: International Extradition, International Practitioner's Deskbook Series: International Litigation Strategies and Practice, 3rd Edition, American Bar Association

Federal Government's Annual Health Care Fraud Takedown, Daily Journal

The Trump Administration's Shifting Priorities, NACDL

Defending Against International Extradition from the United States, NACDL

READ MORE >

EDUCATION & BAR ADMISSIONS

University of San Diego School of Law, JD, 2016

Honors, University of California, Berkeley, BA, with Honors, 2006

Bar Admissions, California, 2016
U.S. Court of Appeals 9th Circuit, 2016
District Courts throughout the nation

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Women's White Collar Defense Association, WWCDCA
White Collar Criminal Defense Committee Member, National Association of Criminal Defense (NACDL)
Criminal Justice Section, American Bar Association (ABA)

ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP

Co-Chair, Criminal Justice Section, Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles (WLALA)
Co-Chair, Social Media Committee, Women's White Collar Defense Association (WWCDA)
Vice-Chair, Young Professionals Committee, WWCDCA
Executive Leadership – Social Media Coordinator, Los Angeles Chapter, WWCDCA