

# Adam Abelson

Partner

Adam Abelson represents clients in complex civil litigation, white collar criminal defense, and government investigations. His criminal defense focus includes alleged complex financial, securities, and health care fraud, including under the False Claims Act. His civil litigation focus includes securities enforcement actions, complex commercial disputes, and antitrust and legal malpractice matters. He also represents health care providers and their patients in high-stakes disputes with health insurance companies.

He is also deeply involved in the community, including serving on the board of the Job Opportunities Task Force, and contributing, as a member of the American Bar Association's Task Force on Building Public Trust in the American Justice System, to the American Bar Association's Ten Guidelines on Court Fines and Fees.

Before joining Zuckerman Spaeder in 2012, he served as a law clerk to Judge Andre M. Davis of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, and Judge Catherine C. Blake of the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland.

As a law student, he represented individuals charged with federal misdemeanors in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York, through the New York University School of Law Federal Defenders Clinic. For that work he received NYU's Ann Petluck Poses Memorial Prize for outstanding work in a clinical course. Before attending law school, Adam was a research fellow with Human Rights Watch in Santiago, Chile.

## Community involvement

- Member, American Bar Association Task Force on Building Public Trust in the American Justice System
- Contributing author, ABA Ten Guidelines on Court Fines and Fees
- Board, Job Opportunities Task Force, 2017-present
- Lawyers' Alliance, Public Justice Center, 2016-present
- Member, Next Up Program, Greater Baltimore Committee, 2017-2018

## Recognitions

- 2019 40 Under 40, Baltimore Business Journal
- 2017 Generation J.D. honoree
- Super Lawyers, Rising Star (Maryland)



## Baltimore

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## Practice focus

- Business Litigation
- White Collar Defense
- False Claims Act (FCA)
- Health Care
- Legal Profession and Ethics
- Securities and Commodities Litigation

## Education

- New York University School of Law, J.D., *magna cum laude*, 2010
  - Order of the Coif
  - Ann Petluck Poses Memorial Prize
  - Managing Editor, *NYU Journal of International Law and Politics*
- Princeton University, B.A., *cum laude*, 2005

## Languages

- Spanish



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## **Bar admissions**

- Maryland
- District of Columbia

## **Court admissions**

- U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit
- U.S. District Court, District of Maryland

## **Clerkships**

- Hon. Andre M. Davis, U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit
- Hon. Catherine C. Blake, U.S. District Court, District of Maryland

## **Representative matters**

- Represents United insureds in a case challenging the legality of the internal guidelines it uses when adjudicating mental health and substance abuse claims. Following a highly publicized trial in 2017, the district court ruled that United breached its fiduciary duties when it developed its guidelines and that its denials pursuant to those guidelines were wrongful. The case is now in the remedy phase.
- Member of the Zuckerman trial team that successfully defended former White House Counsel Gregory Craig in a lengthy investigation and trial of charges based on allegations of false statements arising from a Foreign Agents Registration Act inquiry. The jury returned a not guilty verdict in September 2019.
- Represented a former NFL player in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit in a lawsuit against the National Football League's pension plans over benefits for disabilities resulting from brain damage during his NFL career.
- Represented a former employee of a now-defunct international law firm charged with participating in a complex scheme to defraud the firm's lenders concerning the firm's financial condition.
- Represented a foreign national targeted in an insider trading investigation conducted by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and Department of Justice.
- Represented a post-acute health care company in litigation involving allegations of unfair competition and breach of contract.
- Represented a physician in defending against allegations of improper prescribing practices.
- Represented a pro bono client in a five-day trial in the Domestic Relations Branch of the Superior Court for the District of Columbia. The trial court granted our client legal custody, primary physical custody, and child support.



- Represented an international law firm and a regional law firm against allegations of legal malpractice in litigation in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City.

