

2024

SouthBank Legal
Year in Review 

From SouthBank Legal's Washington, D.C., Managing Partner

Our White Collar Defense and Investigations practice developed significantly in 2024.

We are grateful to our clients, old and new, who entrusted us with some of their most sensitive matters. For our 2024 year in review, we will highlight some of those engagements.



Jesse M. Barrett

Washington, D.C., Office Managing Partner





*“[Jesse] is highly experienced
and shows excellent judgment....
In high-stakes, sensitive matters,
you cannot do better.”*

—Third Party | Chambers USA Guide 2024

Internal Investigations

Employee Theft at Fortune 500 Company

An international corporation discovered extensive employee theft, involving millions of dollars and managerial-level individuals. In concert with forensic auditors, SouthBank Legal gathered and analyzed data, conducted interviews, briefed corporate counsel and executives, made presentations to law enforcement, submitted data to insurers and addressed coverage issues, and interfaced with defense counsel to obtain recovery for the client.

Executive-Level Conflict of Interest

A Fortune 500 corporation discovered that a senior executive was potentially steering business to favored suppliers. Working closely with the company's in-house lawyers and investigators, SouthBank Legal analyzed purchasing data, reviewed internal communications, and conducted numerous interviews. SouthBank Legal briefed corporate executives and submitted multiple reports summarizing its findings.



Internal Investigations (continued)




International Executive Misconduct

A well-known company with worldwide operations learned that an international C-Suite executive was using corporate resources to advance his personal interests. A team of in-house and external lawyers—including SouthBank Legal attorneys—traveled internationally to conduct sensitive interviews. The highest levels of the company were involved in the investigation and subsequent briefing.


Disclosure of Proprietary Data

A Fortune 500 company learned that an employee may have disclosed sensitive, internal information to suppliers. SouthBank Legal analyzed the data and internal communications, then conducted interviews to determine the nature and scope of the employee's conduct. Working with in-house counsel, SouthBank Legal advised the client regarding its findings.



“Jesse Barrett and his team are very competent and have excellent judgment.... They have highly experienced criminal and civil litigators with a depth of experience in former government positions.”

—Client | Chambers USA Guide 2024



“They did a remarkable job.... They were very considerate, and this was a very sensitive situation.”

—Client | Chambers USA Guide 2024

Compliance

Settlement with International Organization

A Fortune 500 company engaged SouthBank Legal to negotiate a dispute with a prominent international customer. Federal law enforcement had closely scrutinized this business relationship and had secured adjacent indictments, so SouthBank Legal provided advice regarding the proper mechanism to structure the settlement to preserve the business relationship, avoid compliance concerns, and minimize the risk of further government investigation.

Acquisition of International Business

A company with international operations desired to expand its business in new markets. After identifying an acquisition target, the company retained SouthBank Legal to advise regarding compliance issues, such as evaluating customers of the target, analyzing the target's business history, drafting contractual compliance language, and avoiding risk under the FCPA and international anti-bribery and sanctions laws.




Compliance (continued)

Evaluating Contractual Compliance Issues

A Fortune 500 company engaged SouthBank Legal to review multiple contracts with international organizations for compliance issues. SouthBank Legal provided advice in delicate business negotiations on ways to structure the contracts to simultaneously ensure compliance with domestic and international anti-bribery and sanctions requirements, and not impose an undue burden on the negotiations.

Reviewing Various Corporate Compliance Issues

On behalf of a Fortune 500 company, SouthBank Legal advised on multiple discrete compliance matters. These included issues such as outside business ventures by employees; corporate promotions that could impact compliance with tax and wage-reporting laws; related-party transactions; employee-training protocols; and corporate policies on gifts, travel, and entertainment.



“The bench strength of the attorneys, and the experience and the practical know-how... is unmatched for a firm [of its] size.”

—Client | Chambers USA Guide 2024

White Collar Defense

Representing Former Elected Official

SouthBank Legal represents a former elected official turned lobbyist who is under investigation for public corruption. SouthBank Legal has managed the defense of this individual, including negotiating with federal agents and prosecutors. Despite a long-running, high-profile investigation, the individual has not been charged with any misconduct.

Defending Counsel of Company

SouthBank Legal represents in a federal tax investigation the lawyer for a company that handles various sensitive tax-related matters. The particular tax issues are a priority for the IRS and the Department of Justice and have received significant publicity and congressional scrutiny.

White Collar Defense (continued)

Defending Compliance Coordinator of Fortune 500 Company

SouthBank Legal represents the compliance coordinator of an international company in parallel federal criminal and civil investigations into corporate conduct. This representation has involved analysis of thousands of documents, interaction with law enforcement, and coordination with the corporation and other represented individuals.

Representing Employees of Fortune 500 Company

SouthBank Legal represents multiple employees of a Fortune 500 company that is under investigation by federal agencies. In this role, SouthBank Legal has extensively interacted with inside and outside corporate counsel, prepared employees for testimony, and represented the witnesses in their government interactions.

SouthBank Legal and its attorneys are recognized by Chambers USA and Best Lawyers®





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