



FORMER REVLON EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL COUNSEL MITRA HORMOZI JOINS WMH

Mitra Hormozi comes to WMH with over 25 years of legal experience as a trusted advisor, including most recently as Executive Vice President and General Counsel of Revlon, Inc., where she oversaw the legal, compliance, and regulatory functions of the multinational public company.

Prior to her in-house role, Mitra served as Special Deputy Chief of Staff for litigation at the New York State Office of the Attorney General and as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, where she tried numerous complex criminal cases and served as Chief of the Organized Crime and Racketeering Section.

WMH OPENS PHILADELPHIA OFFICE

Daniel Miller, Jonathan DeSantis, and Jennifer Logan join WMH in Philadelphia

Dan Miller joined WMH last spring and will co-lead the firm's Philadelphia office with Managing Partner Jim Walden. Dan is a nationally recognized litigator with first-chair experience in over 100 trials. His practice focuses on qui tam prosecution and defense in cases brought under various federal and state whistleblower programs, as well as criminal defense and commercial litigation. Associate Jon DeSantis and paralegal Jennifer Logan join Dan in WMH's Philadelphia office.



Daniel Miller



Jonathan DeSantis

WMH COMPLETES THREE MAJOR INVESTIGATIONS

Special Counsel to Governor Phil Murphy's New Jersey Task Force on EDA Tax Incentives

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy appointed WMH as Special Counsel to the Task Force on EDA Tax Incentives to investigate the allocation of the state's multibillion-dollar tax incentive program funds. The investigation exposed self-dealing in the drafting of legislation, uncovered illegal lobbying, and resulted in over \$500 million in tax awards voluntarily terminated or subject to suspension or termination actions.

Independent Monitor for the Agricultural Bank of China

WMH served as the Independent Monitor for the Agricultural Bank of China for three years, pursuant to an appointment by the New York State Department of Financial Services (DFS). Our team conducted a comprehensive review of the bank's Bank Secrecy Act, anti-money laundering, Know Your Customer (KYC), and sanctions compliance programs and conducted an 18-month lookback review of U.S. dollar clearing activity through its New York branch.

Three-Year Höegh Autoliners Monitorship Ends in 2021

WMH served on the leadership team of the Independent Monitor of Höegh Autoliners, appointed in March 2018 by the U.S. Department of Justice, Antitrust Division, after the company pled guilty to criminal bid rigging and price fixing conspiracy charges arising from its work in the roll-on, roll-off international shipping market.

CIVIL LITIGATION HIGHLIGHTS

WMH Wins Major Turnaround in Multimillion-Dollar Art Dispute

An art-leasing company retained WMH after a Court entered a preliminary injunction preventing the company from liquidating various artworks. After successfully moving to vacate the injunction, WMH found evidence of improper and deceptive discovery practices and moved to strike the plaintiffs' complaint and answer. Justice Joel M. Cohen of the New York State Supreme Court granted the motion, adopting WMH's analysis as "detailed, clear, and compelling," dismissing the plaintiffs' case with prejudice, and striking their answer to the defendant's counterclaims. Jim Walden, Georgia Winston, and Daniel Cohen secured the dismissal.

WMH Wins Dismissal for Failure to State a Claim

WMH represented a real estate investment firm and a real estate asset management advisor whom a plaintiff sought to hold liable for substantial damages on a contract to which they were not parties, based on theories of veil piercing and alter ego liability. WMH moved to dismiss the complaint against these entities for failure to state a claim. Justice Nancy Bannon of the New York State Supreme Court granted our motion and dismissed the case. Jim Walden and Daniel Cohen represented this client.

WMH Secures Voluntary Dismissal for Large Online Travel Company

WMH represents a large online travel company that was sued in a qui tam action alleging failure to remit hotel occupancy taxes. By forcefully demonstrating the baselessness of the allegations against our client, WMH persuaded the plaintiffs to voluntarily dismiss the client from the case without the need for motion practice. Sean Haran and Jake Gardener secured the dismissal. WMH represented the same company in connection with a suit brought under the Helms-Burton Act alleging that the company unlawfully trafficked in property expropriated by the Cuban government. Led by Sean Haran, Jake Gardener, and Derek Borchardt, WMH secured a quick and decisive victory on a motion to dismiss.

WMH Wins Dismissal for Institute of Graduate Fine Arts Education

WMH represented an institute of graduate fine arts education in a lawsuit brought by one of the institution's co-founders. The plaintiff felt aggrieved by a statement published by the institution, which included truthful information regarding his role as a member of the original Board of Trustees. Accordingly, the plaintiff brought a defamation suit against the institution, its President, and its Board of Trustees. After WMH moved to dismiss the complaint as against all parties for failure to state a claim, the Honorable Richard Latin granted our motion and dismissed the case with prejudice. Jim Walden, Avni Patel, and Amanda Senske represented this client.

2020-2021 FIRM RECOGNITIONS

Chambers USA 2020 "Litigation: Specialist Firms in White-Collar Crime & Government Investigations - New York"

2020 National Law Journal "Pro Bono Hot List" Honoree

Benchmark Litigation 2021 "Recommended Firm"

U.S. News - Best Lawyers "Best Law Firms" 2021 National Tier 1 - Criminal Defense: White Collar; Metropolitan Tier 1 New York City - Criminal Defense: White Collar



Walden Macht & Haran LLP

WMH WELCOMES TWO ASSOCIATES

Martin Njoroge and Jo Wu Joined WMH in 2020



Martin Njoroge



Jo Wu

Prior to joining WMH, Martin Njoroge was a litigation associate at an AmLaw100 firm. During law school, he served as a board member for the Harvard African Law Association and the Harvard Mediation Program, and he was an active participant in the Harvard Black Law Students Association. Martin also interned for the Center for Law and Education in its Boston office.

Jo Wu most recently served as a law clerk for the Honorable Keith E. Lynott, Superior Court of New Jersey Civil Division. She also has private practice experience. Jo is a native Mandarin speaker and is also fluent in French.

FROM WMH TO GOV

Four WMH Associates Land Coveted Government Positions

Marc Armas accepted a position as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey last month. Edward Dunn previously left WMH to become an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, and Kraig Ahalt likewise worked in that office on a temporary assignment before returning to WMH.

Jeffery Ding joined the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) in December.

WMH'S NEW YORK OFFICE MOVES TO 250 VESEY STREET

On January 1st, WMH moved to a 33,000 square foot office on the 27th Floor of 250 Vesey Street at Brookfield Place.

“The sleek office design of glass and steel is immaculate. Once fully built out, there will be 48 offices (21 more than at our last location), five conference rooms, a dedicated wellness room for nursing mothers, and substantial open-plan space to drive collaboration and accommodate socially distanced interactions. Natural light floods the space and makes it a wonderfully inviting place to work,” said WMH Managing Partner Jim Walden.



PRO BONO SPOTLIGHT

The lawyers at WMH are dedicated to using the law to effect positive social change. Through pro bono and good government work, we fight on behalf of community and preservation groups, as well as classes of underprivileged individuals, to hold the government accountable for misconduct that harms the public and infringes on civil rights.

Anti-Doping Legislation Authored by Jim Walden Becomes U.S. Law

Based on his knowledge of state-sponsored doping by the Russian Federation in multiple Olympic games, Jim Walden was invited to testify before the Helsinki Commission, during which he proposed a legislative solution: a long-arm statute giving the FBI and DOJ power to prosecute doping in international competitions. Jim worked closely with Senators Ben Cardin and Roger Wicker, and Representative Sheila Jackson Lee, to draft the Rodchenkov Anti-Doping Act, named after WMH client and whistleblower Dr. Grigory Rodchenkov. In December 2020, the Rodchenkov Anti-Doping Act became U.S. law.

WMH Represents Dr. Grigory Rodchenkov, Whistleblower Who Revealed Russian State-Sponsored Doping in International Sports, in Defamation Lawsuit

WMH represented Dr. Grigory Rodchenkov, the whistleblower who revealed Russian state-sponsored doping in international sports, in his defense of a defamation lawsuit filed by several Russian athletes in New York Supreme Court. WMH answered the complaint and asserted a counterclaim under New York's anti-SLAPP (strategic litigation against public participation) law, which provides certain protections for persons, like Dr. Rodchenkov, who speak out on matters of public concern. After we asserted the counterclaim on Dr. Rodchenkov's behalf, and while it was pending, the athletes agreed to drop the lawsuit and dismiss their claims against Dr. Rodchenkov. Jim Walden, Avni Patel, and Derek Borchardt represented this client.

Court Strikes Down Prosecutorial Watchdog Commission

Representing a state-wide entity comprising every elected District Attorney in New York State, WMH filed a constitutional challenge to a bill passed by the New York State Legislature. The law fundamentally intruded on the independence of the prosecutorial functions by allowing a commission to immunize accused criminals, invade attorney-client privilege, make confidential records public (even in pending prosecutions), and single out district attorneys for special punishments that went far beyond established attorney discipline procedures. In 2020, the court ruled in our favor and struck down the law, declaring it unconstitutional. It was a rare example of a victorious constitutional challenge, and of a statute being struck down on its face. Jim Walden and Jake Gardener represented this client.

WMH Represents Chris Krebs, Former Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)

WMH represents Chris Krebs, the former Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) who was fired by President Trump for declaring the 2020 election the most secure in history. After a Trump Campaign lawyer called for Krebs's execution on Newsmax, thereby inciting an avalanche of death threats against Krebs, WMH drafted a powerful complaint against the lawyer, the Trump Campaign, and Newsmax, alleging defamation, intentional infliction of emotional distress, civil conspiracy, and aiding and abetting. Partners Jim Walden and Jeff Udell led the WMH team in this matter.

Congressional Committee asks WMH to Write Legislation Giving DOJ and FBI Powers to Prosecute Extrajudicial Murder, Kidnapping, and Murder

At the request of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions, Dr. Agnès Callamard, a team of WMH attorneys, led by partner Tim Macht, advised the Special Rapporteur on U.S. law concerning various civil and criminal remedies, duties of the U.S. and other governments toward intended victims of crimes (including duty to warn), and related issues arising under international treaties and other international laws in connection with her June 12, 2019 report to the United Nations Human Rights Council concerning the death of Saudi journalist, Jamal Khashoggi. In 2021, a Congressional Committee asked WMH to draft new legislation that will give the the DOJ and FBI powers to prosecute extrajudicial murder, kidnapping, and murder.

2020-2021 ATTORNEY RECOGNITIONS

Sean Haran and Jim Walden

Chambers USA 2020 Litigation: White-Collar Crime & Government Investigations - New York

Jim Walden

2020 *New York Law Journal* "Innovation Award"

Milton Williams

2020 *New York Law Journal* "Distinguished Leader"

Sean Haran, Timothy Macht, Jim Walden, Milton Williams, and Georgia Winston

Benchmark Litigation 2021 "Litigation Stars"

Milton Williams

Benchmark Litigation 2021 "Labor & Employment Star"

Adam Cohen

Benchmark Litigation 2021 "Future Star"

Jim Walden and Milton Williams

2020 *National Law Journal* "Litigation Trailblazers"

Jim Walden

2020 *New York Law Journal* "Trailblazers"

Jim Walden and Milton Williams

Lawdragon "500 Leading Lawyers in America"

Jim Walden

City & State "Law Power 100"

Jim Walden

NJBIZ "Law Power 50"

John Curran and Sean Haran

2020 "Irish Legal 100"

Sean Haran, Timothy Macht, Jeffrey Udell, and Jim Walden

2021 *U.S. News - Best Lawyers*

Rachel Brook, Jacob Gardener, and Avni Patel

2021 *Best Lawyers*: "Ones to Watch"



Visit our new website at
www.wmhlaw.com.

2020 Law360 Diversity Snapshot

WMH places eighth among similarly sized firms that stood out for the representation of minorities in their attorney and equity partner ranks.

STANDING UP AGAINST INJUSTICE

"An Overdue Answer to Terror Lynchings and the Racial Psychopathy of 'White Supremacy'"

Published in the Gotham Gazette and New York Law Journal, Jim Walden's article, "An Overdue Answer to Terror Lynchings and the Racial Psychopathy of 'White Supremacy'" asserts that government has had a key role in advancing the corrosive and twisted cause of white supremacy. Peace, reconciliation, and reparations for families of lynching victims, and passage of the Emmett Till Antilynching Act, Jim writes, would be meaningful steps toward national healing.

"A Proposal for Police Reform: Require Effective Accountability Measures in Police Union Contracts as a Condition of Tax-Exempt Status"

Brian Mogck published an article in the University of Chicago Law Review Online, presenting a novel, concrete, and politically attainable way to improve accountability in police departments nationwide. The article builds upon empirical research indicating that the police disciplinary process is sometimes tragically undermined by special procedural protections for officers accused of misconduct, which are built into collective bargaining agreements between municipalities and police unions. Brian proposes legislation making the tax-exempt status of police unions contingent on their agreement to disciplinary and appeals protocols that are more likely to uphold police integrity and the rule of law.