

Mark D. Chutkow

Member



Contact

Bloomfield Hills
248-203-0715
mchutkow@dykema.com

Overview

When clients face serious allegations of regulatory or criminal wrongdoing, Mark Chutkow is the clear-eyed, unflappable attorney they want at their sides.

A decorated former federal prosecutor who has won landmark cases and led the Criminal Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office in Detroit, Mark has experience with the many challenges clients might encounter in the justice system. As the leader of Dykema's government investigations and corporate compliance practice, he uses his extraordinary litigation skills and keen judgment to navigate companies and executives through complex, high-stakes government enforcement and civil litigation matters.

Responding to state and federal investigations requires in-depth knowledge of the process, pitfalls, and government's ultimate goal—something Mark developed during more than 20 years of service and leadership at the Department of Justice.

If he cannot resolve a matter during or after the investigation, he can prepare and lead the successful defense of any civil or criminal action that might follow. Always calm and cool-headed, Mark has earned the trust and respect of his peers, the bench, prosecutors, and top management among law enforcement agencies.

Before joining the firm, Mark first served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Seattle. After transferring to the Eastern District of Michigan, he headed the Public Corruption Unit and later the 85-prosecutor Criminal Division.

In those roles, he investigated, tried, and supervised cases resulting in convictions of some of the most recognized names in local government. He also obtained and oversaw record-breaking criminal fines and penalties against global manufacturers and officials engaged

Areas of client focus

Practices

Litigation
Commercial Litigation
Government Investigations and
Corporate Compliance

in consumer fraud, corruption, and kickback schemes.

Mark's practice extends from fraud, RICO, and corruption matters to environmental enforcement actions. His experience spans routine compliance audits, high-stakes, high-profile investigations, and courtroom litigation.

He is seen as the crisis counsel of choice for officers, directors, boards, and executives, and because he is based in Michigan, he brings deep local experience and presence that cannot be replicated by out-of-state lawyers with little or no familiarity with the region's investigators, prosecutors, judges, and juries.

Managing clients' needs frequently involves navigating the media; Mark's many years handling corruption and criminal matters of deep journalistic interest honed his skillful interactions and positive rapport with the press.

Mark's willingness to put out fires reaches outside of work, too. A state-certified firefighter, he volunteers with his village fire department.

Experience

Litigated Matters

Detroit Metropolitan Airport Corruption, 2019-2020

- Trial counsel in three-week trial of Detroit Metropolitan Airport official convicted and sentenced to ten years in prison for taking \$6 million in kickbacks—one of largest bribes in District history—in exchange for \$43 million in airport contracts

Volkswagen Diesel Emissions, 2015-2018

- Assisted in oversight of investigation and prosecution of VW for decade-long scheme to sell diesel vehicles containing software designed to cheat U.S. emissions tests, resulting in \$2.8 billion penalty, largest criminal fine in history of automotive industry and largest corporate fine in history of District
- Led investigation and prosecution of VW engineer who designed and tested defeat device, resulting in conviction and 40-month sentence

City of Detroit Corruption, 2010-2014

- Led prosecution of wide-ranging pay-to-play network of corruption in City of Detroit government, convicting 35 city officials and businesspeople, including former mayor of Detroit and three associates after landmark six-month trial

Matters Closely Supervised as Criminal Division Chief

FCA and UAW Labor Management Relations Fraud, 2018-2021

- Supervised Assistant U.S. Attorneys in one of most significant Taft-Hartley Act prosecutions in history, including convictions of FCA, the United Auto Workers, and senior officials for labor management relations violations

- FCA agreed to \$30 million fine and three-year corporate compliance monitorship o UAW entered consent decree requiring six-year independent monitorship
- Fourteen officials convicted of felony offenses, including three senior FCA officials, two UAW presidents, and two UAW vice presidents

Takata Airbags, 2016 to 2017

- Supervised Assistant U.S. Attorneys who obtained conviction of Takata, one of world's largest suppliers of automotive safety-related equipment, for wire fraud arising from manufacture and sales of defective airbag inflators
- Takata agreed to pay \$1 billion in penalties and three-year corporate monitor

Credentials

Education

- University of Chicago Law School, J.D., 1991, Associate Editor, University of Chicago Legal Forum
- Yale University, B.A., *cum laude*, 1987

Bar Admissions

Illinois

Professional Recognition

- Leonard R. Gilman Award, Federal Bar Association, Eastern District of Michigan, 2018
- Director's Awards for Superior Performance, Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, 2018 and 2015
- IRS Criminal Investigation Chief's Excellence Award, 2013
- U.S. Department of Justice Certificate of Commendation, 2009
- United States President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency, Award for Excellence, 2006
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10 Award, 2004

Affiliations

Professional

- Federal Bar Association, Executive Board, Eastern District of Michigan, 2021-present
- American College of Trial Lawyers (ACTL), Fellow, 2015-present
- International Association of Independent Compliance Monitors, Member

Community

- Bloomfield Village Fire Department, Volunteer Firefighter, State Certification, Firefighter I & II Examinations, Bloomfield Township, Michigan, 2013-present

Related Employment

- Assistant U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of Michigan
- Assistant U.S. Attorney, Western District of Washington

