



Kurt K. Lunkenheimer

Member

Miami

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Kurt is an experienced white collar litigator and former federal prosecutor who defends companies and individuals in the context of government or internal investigations, enforcement actions, and civil or criminal trials.

Kurt served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Southern District of Florida (SDFL) for 13 years, leading a wide range of high-profile investigations. He first chaired or supervised nearly 30 trials to verdict, including prosecution of international drug trafficking, money laundering, Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) and Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) violations, alien smuggling, maritime crimes, environmental crimes, health care fraud, kickback schemes, and financial fraud.

Widely respected in the U.S. Attorney's Office, Kurt received numerous recognitions and was promoted to several leadership posts, most recently deputy chief in the International Narcotics and Money Laundering Section and, prior to that, deputy chief in the Major Crimes Section. Kurt also worked in private practice for six years as a white collar criminal defense attorney in New York City and Philadelphia before going into government.

In his current practice, Kurt defends clients who are witnesses, subjects, or targets of government inquiries and investigations, leads internal and whistleblower claim investigations, and partners with corporate clients to audit and enhance compliance with federal and state laws.

Kurt earned his A.B. from Princeton University in 1999 and his J.D., *cum laude*, from Duke University School of Law in 2003, where he was an editor for the *Alaska Law Review*. Kurt completed a clerkship with the Honorable Richard J. Leon in the District Court for the District of Columbia.

A former NCAA Division I athlete, Kurt was captain of Princeton University's lacrosse team, winning three national championships and co-captaining the 1996 World Champion U.S. Under-19 team. He is still deeply involved in the lacrosse community, serving as a member of the disciplinary committee of the professional Premier Lacrosse League and as a volunteer high school lacrosse coach.

Experience

U.S. Attorney's Office

- Led the prosecution of U.S. v. Claudia Patricia Diaz Guillen and Adrian Jose Velasquez Figueroa, 18-cr-80160-WPD (S.D. FL), convicting at trial the former National Treasurer of Venezuela and her husband for their roles in a multibillion-dollar bribery and money laundering scheme. Claudia Patricia Diaz Guillen and her husband, Adrian José Velásquez, accepted and laundered more than \$136 million in bribes from the Venezuelan billionaire owner of Globovision news network. Both were sentenced to 15 years in prison.

Practice Areas

- White Collar Defense & Investigations
- Securities Litigation & SEC Enforcement

Education

- Duke University School of Law, J.D., 2003
- Princeton University, A.B., 1999

Bar Admissions

- New York
- Pennsylvania
- Florida

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court -- Eastern District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court -- Eastern District of New York
- U.S. District Court -- Southern District of New York

Affiliations

Board Member, Children's Bereavement Center, Lift from Loss for Adults – Miami, FL (2024)

Awards & Honors

- U.S. Treasury FinCEN Director's 2024 Law Enforcement Award (Corruption – Homeland Security Investigations)

Clerkships

Honorable Richard J. Leon, District Court for the District of Columbia, 2005-06

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- Successfully prosecuted Alvaro Ledo Nass, the former general counsel and secretary of the board of directors of Venezuela's state-owned oil company. Nass pleaded guilty in 2023 to his participation in a \$1.2 billion embezzlement and money laundering scheme stretching from his homeland to South Florida to Europe that enabled Nass to pocket \$11.5 million in bribes. He faced up to 10 years in prison for his key role. In light of his extensive cooperation with federal prosecutors, Nass will not receive the maximum sentence but must turn over millions of dollars in assets from bank accounts in Switzerland, Portugal, and Malta to the U.S. government. A dozen other foreign and local defendants have been charged in the sprawling foreign corruption case.
- Served as lead prosecutor in U.S. v. Jorge Nobrega, (S.D. Fl.), successfully convicting Nobrega of conspiracy to evade OFAC sanctions against PDVSA, the Venezuelan State-Owned Oil Company, and related money laundering charges.
- Filed a criminal complaint against a pair of financial asset managers for their role in the massive money laundering and bribery case centered on the alleged theft of \$1.2 billion from Venezuela's state-owned oil company. Ralph Steinmann of Switzerland, and Luis Fernando Vuteff of Argentina, were charged with conspiracy to launder hundreds of millions of through European and U.S. banks. The money was then used to line the pockets of at least two Venezuelan public officials, including the oil ministry's general counsel, Carmelo Urdaneta Aqui.
- Prosecuted a contractor for Venezuela who made a fortune off government deals and allegedly moved millions of dollars to Miami. Alex Saab Moran lost his bid to have a corruption indictment thrown out after a federal judge denied his diplomatic immunity claim. Saab claimed he was a "diplomat" for President Nicolas Maduro's regime when he was arrested in Iran 2020 and tried to persuade U.S. District Judge Robert Scola to dismiss a \$350 million money laundering indictment filed against him, claiming he was immune from prosecution. The judge found he was not an actual "special envoy" and accused the Venezuelan government of doctoring certain documents to make the contractor appear legitimate. Saab faces up to 20 years in prison for allegedly stealing money from a Venezuelan housing program that was supposed to benefit the poor in the economically depressed country.
- Served as lead prosecutor in U.S. v. Jeanne E. Germeil, 18-cr-20769-UU (S.D. Fl.), aff'd U.S. v. Germeil, Nos. 19-14942 & 19-14961, (Feb. 14, 2023, 11th Cir.), convicting a doctor of prescribing opioids without a legitimate medical purpose.
- Led the investigation and indictment of a Colombian citizen who allegedly laundered the proceeds of Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) violations in connection with a scheme to pay bribes to take advantage of Venezuela's government-controlled exchange rate.
- Obtained a 96-month sentence in federal prison for a dual citizen of Australia and the United Kingdom who had pled guilty to involuntary manslaughter for killing his wife while on board a sailing vessel on the high seas.