ArentFox Schiff LLP
Attorneys

William P. Ziegelmueller

PARTNER

Bill is a seasoned trial lawyer who represents individual and corporate clients in federal criminal investigations, regulatory enforcement actions, civil litigation, and corporate internal investigations.



Industries

Cannabis
Health Care

Practices

Business Compliance & Integrity Monitorships
Complex Litigation
Government Enforcement & White Collar
False Claims Act Investigations & Litigation
— Investigations
Privacy & Data Security
Trade Secrets, Noncompetes & Employee Mobility

International

Japan

Education

Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law, JD, Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology, Coordinating Note Editor, 1994

Wake Forest University, BA, magna cum laude, 1991

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A first-chair trial lawyer who has tried cases in in federal and state courts across the country, Bill will try any case, anywhere. He also regularly leads internal investigations into fraud or other misconduct by company employees, counsels employers as to the reporting or referral for prosecution of such misconduct, and pursues civil claims against wrongdoers.

Bill represents corporations and individuals accused of wrongdoing, such as fraud, political corruption, tax evasion, extortion, bribery, foreign corrupt practices, and antitrust violations. Bill is familiar with the technical coding and billing requirements of federal health care programs, and he frequently advises health care providers in responding to government audits and subpoenas, and, if necessary, in litigating civil or criminal charges. He also counsels providers in defending against claims brought by whistleblowers or qui tam relators under the False Claims Act and similar state statutes.

Bill has experience in defending clients involved in investigations and enforcement actions conducted by the SEC, IRS, EPA, NTSB, CFTC, OCC, ICE, FDA, USDA, and other federal and state regulatory agencies. He has been involved in several investigations related to the EB-5 visa program, government purchasing rules, anti-dumping duties, and the marketing of pharmaceuticals. Bill also has responded to numerous investigative inquiries by the Illinois Attorney General, the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, and other state regulators, and he has litigated consumer fraud and professional licensing matters in both administrative and judicial proceedings.

His civil litigation has involved a range of executive employment and compensation disputes, unfair competition and corporate breach of contract cases, and insurance matters.

Client Work

- Lead trial counsel in winning a not guilty verdict on bank fraud charges for our client, who was charged in the Eastern District of Texas with defrauding lenders through real estate transactions designed to take advantage of a federal tax incentive implemented after Hurricane Katrina.
- Represented a court-appointed receiver in investigating fraud, self-dealing, and breaches of fiduciary duty by the former owner of the largest COVID testing lab in Illinois.
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Represented key players in many high-profile criminal investigations, including the General Motors' ignition switch and Takata airbag recalls, and the federal inquiry into United Airlines' ties to the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

- Represented Antoin Rezko, an advisor to former Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich, in a three-month trial in Chicago.
- Represented the lead defendant in the TAP Pharmaceuticals case, which culminated in the acquittal of all individual defendants after a three-month jury trial in Boston.
- Led discovery and was second chair in the trial defense of a Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Illinois executive, which ended in an acquittal after a lengthy trial in the Southern District of Illinois.
- Represented a former attorney who was charged with developing complex tax shelters promoted by major law firms, banks, and brokerage houses during a four-month trial in New York.
- Led the trial defense of the owner of a California pharmacy charged with criminal health care fraud offenses.
- Won a not guilty verdict for a client charged with violating federal gun restrictions.

Boards, Memberships & Certifications

- American Bar Association
- Chicago Bar Association
- Seventh Circuit Bar Association

Publications

- "AFS Secures No Jail Time for Auto Lender Exec in Multi-Million Dollar Fraud Case," *ArentFox Schiff* (Jun. 30, 2025)
- "NTSB's Investigation Moving Full Speed Ahead," *ArentFox Schiff* (May. 23, 2025)
- "Predicting the Unpredictable: DOJ's Enforcement Priorities From the ABA's 40th White Collar Crime Institute," *ArentFox Schiff* (Mar. 14, 2025)
- "FinCEN Releases Final Anti-Money Laundering Rule for Investment Advisers," *ArentFox Schiff* (Nov. 1, 2024)
- "SEC and FinCEN Propose New Rule: Mandatory Customer Verification for Investment Advisers in 2024," *ArentFox Schiff* (Jun. 12, 2024)
- "A Win for the SEC on Shadow Trading. Now What?," *ArentFox Schiff* (Apr. 15, 2024)
- "Investment Advisers To Be Subject to Strengthened AML Regulations Under FinCEN's Proposed Rule," *ArentFox Schiff* (Mar. 6, 2024)
- "SDNY Whistleblower Program for Individuals: An Extension of DOJ Corporate Voluntary Disclosure Policies," *ArentFox Schiff* (Feb. 15, 2024)
- "Compliance Officers Beware: the SEC is Looking to Expand the Reach of Insider Trading," *ArentFox Schiff* (Dec. 22, 2023)
- "CBD Regulation: Not Much Progress in 2021," *ArentFox Schiff* (Aug. 10, 2021)
- "COVID-19: Law Enforcement Warns of Increased Fraud, Promises Increased Enforcement," *ArentFox Schiff* (Mar. 27, 2020)

Presentations

- "Are You Ready for COVID-19 Litigation?" Webinar (Aug. 13, 2020)

Recognitions

- The Best Lawyers in America, *Best Lawyers* (2021-2027)
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Chambers USA – Litigation: White-Collar Crime & Government Investigations, Illinois (2021-2026)

- *Illinois Super Lawyers*, Thomson Reuters (2010-2023)
- Illinois Leading Lawyer, Law Bulletin's *Illinois Leading Lawyers Network* (2017-2023)
- Peer-Reviewed AV® Preeminent™, *Martindale-Hubbell* (Since 2016)
- Illinois Rising Star, Thomson Reuters *Illinois Super Lawyers* (2009)

Bar Admissions

Illinois

Court Admissions

US Court of Appeals, 7th Circuit
US District Court, Northern District of Illinois (Trial Bar)
US District Court, Northern District of Indiana
US District Court, Eastern District of Michigan
US District Court, District of Nebraska