Joy Marie Virga

ASSOCIATE

Joy counsels clients on matters involving customs and import compliance.



Practices

International Trade & Investment
— Customs & Import Compliance

Education

American University, Washington College of Law, JD, 2016

Stony Brook University, MBA, 2013

Stony Brook University, BA, 2012

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Washington, DC

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Joy's practice focuses on customs and import compliance and international trade, with a particular emphasis on customs valuation, special duty programs, and international affairs.

Before joining ArentFox Schiff, Joy served as an attorney-advisor in the Office of Trade, Regulations, and Rulings at US Customs and Border Protection, where she routinely drafted decisions on customs valuation, tariff classification, country of origin, and eligibility of preferential tariff treatment of imports under various trade agreements and preference programs. Joy advised the Office of the United States Trade Representative on customs issues related to international trade agreement negotiations and provided counsel to the US House of Representatives and the US Senate on draft customs legislation. Additionally, she collaborated with counterparts from Canada and Mexico to update the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Uniform Regulations to align with the United States-Mexico Canada Agreement (USMCA) Rules of Origin. She also represented the US at the World Customs Organization's (WCO) Technical Committee on Rules of Origin, the Technical Committee on Customs Valuation, and the Forum of the Regional Community of Valuation Specialists of the Americas and Caribbean.

During her time there, she also accepted a temporary assignment as a trade advisor and international relations specialist within the Office of International Affairs, where she orchestrated engagements with foreign dignitaries and acted as a liaison between the Customs and Border Protection Attaché in El Salvador and Customs and Border Protection Headquarters to manage priority operations, including trade and travel facilitation and combating transnational organized crime. Additionally, Joy completed another temporary assignment as a trade advisor, identifying key areas for providing technical assistance to facilitate trade and promote economic development in Guatemala.

Publications, Presentations & Recognitions

Publications

— "Navigating New Trade Barriers: The Impact of Tariffs on the U.S. Food and Beverage Industry," *The Food Institute*, March 12, 2025

Presentations

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Panelist: "Tariffs, Trade, Immigration – Impacts on Food and Agriculture," *Food Policy Impact 2025 Conference*, April 30, 2025

- Panelist: "Related Party Valuation," *Customs and International Trade Bar Association*, November 9, 2023

Recognitions

- Department of Homeland Security, *Champion of Equity Award (*2023)

Boards, Memberships & Certifications

Memberships

- Customs Lawyer Association, Vice President
- Women in International Trade

Life Beyond the Law

Outside of work, Joy enjoys running, biking, watersports, and spending quality time with friends and family. Additionally, she is conversant in Spanish.

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia

New York