



## Matthew S. Adams

Partner

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Matthew is an experienced criminal and civil trial attorney whose diverse national practice focuses predominantly on white-collar criminal and regulatory defense and complex commercial litigation. He serves as the co-chair of Fox Rothschild's White-Collar Criminal Defense & Regulatory Compliance practice group, and also holds leadership roles in the Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers of New Jersey (Officer) and the Essex County, New Jersey Bar Association (Trustee).

Known for his sophisticated command of emerging issues at the intersection of technology and the law, Matthew is particularly knowledgeable in e-discovery, digital forensics, data privacy, social networking and cybersecurity. His clients routinely rely upon him to advance their interests through the use of technology driven evidence like e-mails, text messages, internet IP address and intrusion analysis, metadata, and cellular tower triangulation – to name just a few of the novel forms of evidence that Matthew has demonstrated a mastery with over the course of the last decade.

He represents companies of all sizes facing or pursuing civil litigation, public officials confronting corruption or official misconduct charges and individuals and entities facing a broad range of regulatory enforcement actions and criminal charges including, but not limited to, fraud, theft of trade secrets, possession and distribution of digital contraband, commercial bribery and extortion.

Outside the courtroom, Matthew is a vocal advocate for veterans' rights, particularly as relates to the treatment of veterans suffering from mental health and dependency issues resulting from their service to our nation in theatres of combat. Additionally, in May of 2018, Matthew was appointed by the President of the Essex County, New Jersey Bar Association to chair a special commission to raise funds and provide logistical coordination for the large-scale, no questions asked buy back of illegal firearms to remove them from the street and make our communities safer.

More on each of the focus areas of Matthew's practice is found by following the practice specific links below.

**[White-Collar Criminal and Regulatory Defense](#)**

Meticulous, zealous and ethical, Matthew defends individuals and entities facing state or federal criminal charges, regulatory or enforcement actions or that are the target of an investigation by enforcement agencies or regulatory bodies at all levels of government.

**[Commercial Litigation](#)**

Matthew represents individuals and businesses in the prosecution and defense of complex civil actions. Entrepreneurs, startups, closely held businesses and *Fortune* 100 companies rely on Matthew's pragmatic business sense and effective litigation skills to prevail in their commercial disputes.

### **Cybersecurity**

Data breaches and network intrusions have become commonplace, and extremely costly. Matthew helps companies that experience cyberattacks determine the cause of hacking incidents and find the perpetrators. In the aftermath of an attack, he assists with local, state, federal and international breach notification compliance and interfaces with key regulators to help minimize fines and penalties. Matthew is also a highly effective advocate for those accused of hacking, data theft and/or other cybercrimes.

### **Internal Investigations & Corporate Compliance**

Matthew conducts comprehensive internal investigations for companies of all sizes that face existential crises involving potential internal wrongdoing, or intense regulatory scrutiny of their operations. He employs sharp investigative skills developed in his white collar defense practice — working closely with professionals such as accountants and digital forensics experts — to identify the facts, present them clearly and provide actionable advice that helps clients minimize liability, preserve their reputation and meet their legal and regulatory obligations.

### **Crisis Management**

Matthew provides sophisticated crisis management services to companies and individuals facing investigations and civil or criminal liability. Drawing on his extensive white-collar defense and regulatory compliance experience, he helps clients design crisis response plans and oversees their implementation to ensure they are carried out strategically to advance his clients' interests.

### **Technology**

Technology is pervasive. Matthew helps clients harness it to their benefit in legal matters, and protects their rights in the face of technological innovations that have, in many cases, outpaced the development of the law. He strategically employs digital forensics and other cutting-edge techniques to build and defend cases, often breaking new legal ground in the process.

### **Veterans Advocacy**

Service to those who have sacrificed for our freedoms as Americans is something that Matthew takes great pride in doing. Whether through pro bono engagements at Fox Rothschild's free Lyons, New Jersey Veterans Administration facility legal assistance clinic, or advocacy for new legislation embracing the diversion of veterans out of our criminal justice system and into the health care system, Matthew focuses significant efforts on giving back to the men and women who have sacrificed so much in the name of liberty.

### **Illegal Gun Buyback Initiative**

Matthew spearheaded a 2019 gun buyback program – a joint effort of the Essex County Bar Association and Essex County Prosecutor's Office – that paid out more than \$41,000 in privately raised funds to take more than 330 guns off the streets of New Jersey's third-most populous county. It was no small task, but an endeavor that he took great pride in pursuing and looks forward to expanding in the future.

### **Honors & Awards**



- Named to a list of “New Leaders of the Bar” by *The New Jersey Law Journal* (2016)\*
- Selected to the “Super Lawyers - Rising Star” list for Criminal Defense: White Collar in New Jersey (2013-2019)\*
- Named to a list “Top 10 Under 40” by the National Academy of Criminal Defense Attorneys (2016)

[\\*Awards Methodology](#)

### **Practice Areas**

- Litigation
- White-Collar Criminal Defense & Regulatory Compliance
- E-Discovery
- Financial Services Industry
- Securities Industry
- Privacy & Data Security
- Health Law
- Appellate Practice

### **Bar Admissions**

- New Jersey
- New York

### **Court Admissions**

- U.S. District Court, District of New Jersey
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York

### **Education**

- Seton Hall University School of Law (J.D., 2007)
- Rutgers University (B.S., 2004)

### **Memberships**

- National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
- American Bar Association
- New Jersey State Bar Association
- Essex County Bar Association
- Monmouth County Bar Association
- Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers of New Jersey
- New York County Lawyer's Association
- New York State Bar Association
- Federal Bar Association

## **Board of Directors**

- Essex County Bar Association (Trustee)
- Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers of New Jersey (Secretary/Treasurer)

## **Cybersecurity**

Data breaches and network intrusions are growing in frequency, posing serious business risks to companies in all industries. Matthew brings his technological knowledge and investigative experience to bear in helping clients determine the cause of hacking incidents, track down the perpetrators and respond appropriately in compliance with local, state, federal and international breach response regulations. A steady hand in high-pressure situations, Matthew helps clients respond strategically and effectively when the stakes are high.

In the aftermath of a breach, Matthew helps clients interface with privacy regulators such as the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) and the New York Department of Financial Services (NYDFS), in order to avoid or minimize fines and penalties.

Because of his familiarity with technology and depth of experience in white collar defense matters, Matthew is also a highly effective advocate for those who are accused of hacking, data theft and/or other cyber crimes.

## **Internal Investigations & Corporate Compliance**

Companies of all sizes facing an existential crisis involving potential internal wrongdoing — or intense regulatory scrutiny of their internal operations — need an experienced outside attorney with sharp investigative skills to unearth the facts, present them clearly and provide actionable advice. Clients in a wide array of industries depend on Matthew to conduct comprehensive internal investigations when they are dealing with serious allegations of internal malfeasance, illegal or unethical activity.

Matthew employs skills developed in the course of his diverse criminal and regulatory defense practice to ascertain the facts and provide a detailed plan of action. In these matters, Matthew must triage and react on behalf of his corporate clients — often while managing the coordinated efforts of other complementary professionals such as accountants and digital forensics experts — to serious matters such as potential violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, embezzlement, kickbacks, bribery, fraud, trade secret misappropriation, sexual harassment, regulatory compliance issues and executive misconduct.

When an investigation is complete, Matthew provides clear advice to company boards and executives on next steps that should be taken to mitigate liability and preserve the company's reputation and otherwise comply with legal and regulatory obligations.

Some of Matthew's most recent internal investigation engagements have included, but are not limited to:

- A manufacturer under scrutiny by the U.S. Department of Justice for alleged violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act
- A talent agency that sustained a multi-million dollar theft by its outside bookkeeper
- Service industry clients facing allegations of labor, employment and safety code violations
- A manufacturer accused of the unlawful importation of raw materials for use in the manufacturing process



## Crisis Management

Companies and individuals that are the subject of an investigation or are facing civil or criminal liability can't afford to take chances with crisis management. They need an experienced attorney who can offer sophisticated counsel that mitigates legal exposure, as well as reputational risk.

In his role as a white-collar defense attorney, Matthew has helped many clients navigate high stakes crises that put their very future in doubt. His work in regulatory compliance has given him a detailed understanding of the complicated issues companies face when confronted with serious, existential challenges. Matthew provides clients with sophisticated crisis management advice, overseeing outside communications professionals and ensuring individuals and entities facing significant liability or potential prosecution put out a unified message, speaking with one voice, clearly in a way that advances their interests, rather than digging themselves into a deeper hole.