

VALECIA M. MCDOWELL

Co-head of White Collar, Regulatory Defense & Investigations; Head of Civil Rights & Racial Equity Assessments

t 704.331.1188

valeciamcdowell@mvalaw.com



Valecia McDowell is a national thought leader in the areas of governmental and internal investigations, conduct risk management, and civil rights and racial equity assessments. Valecia is ranked in *Chambers USA* and *Best Lawyers*, included in national publications such as *Bloomberg*, *American Banker*, *Corporate Compliance Insights*, and *Inside Counsel*, and serves on *Law360's* Compliance Editorial Board.

For more than 20 years Valecia has brought her candor, pragmatism, and diligence to bear on behalf of her clients, establishing herself as the go-to attorney in the investigations arena. Valecia has experience conducting internal and governmental investigations across the United States, Europe, Asia, and South America, with specific knowledge and experience in the areas of consumer finance and employee conduct risk, including practice and company-wide reviews and racial equity assessments.

She has represented clients in disputes, investigations, and negotiations involving domestic authorities, such as the Federal Reserve Board, OCC, CFPB, DOJ, SEC, HUD, FINRA, CFTC, DOA, OIG, Congress, State Attorneys General in the United States, and international authorities, such as, the U.K. Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), the Japanese Financial Services Agency (JFSA), and the Comissão de Valores Mobiliários (the Brazilian Securities Commission). She frequently leads sensitive, confidential internal investigations and reviews for Fortune 100 companies and recently led the team that published a racial equity audit report for CoreCivic, the largest private operator of corrections and detention facilities in the US.

Valecia has served as a guest instructor at the Duke University School of Law, teaching a course on internal investigations, and has twice been invited to speak regarding conduct risk management at the SIFMA C&L Annual Seminar. Valecia has also written or been featured in articles published by *Bloomberg*, *American Banker*, *Corporate Compliance Insights*, and *Inside Counsel* on the topics of internal investigations and risk

Capabilities

- Bank Regulatory & Fintech
- Business Court Litigation
- Civil Litigation
- Civil Rights & Racial Equity Assessments
- Class Actions
- Compliance, Controls & Risk Management
- Consumer Disputes
- Consumer Regulation
- Cross-Border Investigations and Defense
- Environmental, Social & Corporate Governance
- Financial Regulatory Advice & Response
- Financial Services Litigation
- Health Care
- Internal Investigations
- Investigations
- Litigation, Regulatory & White Collar

VALECIA M. MCDOWELL

management.

Representative Experience

Regulatory Defense and Internal Investigations

- Leading the team that published a racial equity audit report for CoreCivic, the largest private operator of corrections and detention facilities in the US. (CoreCivic Racial Equity Audit Report)
- Leading a team of more than 80 to conduct a risk analysis for a Fortune 50 company
- Leading a team of more than 30 to conduct a review of consumer sales practices for a national bank
- Defending False Claims allegations where mortgage company representatives were tried and convicted for fraud
- Conducting a public company investigation involving accounting irregularities and executive misconduct in the manufacturing industry
- Leading an investigation into allegations of public corruption on behalf of an international bank in South America
- Leading an effort to self-report potential health care billing irregularities
- Successfully representing a national bank in response to allegations of market manipulation lodged by various state attorneys general
- Conducting a highly publicized investigation on behalf of the city of Charlotte involving allegations of sexual harassment by a city council member

Civil Litigation

Valecia also possesses significant trial, arbitration, and regulatory defense experience in complex, high-stakes cases, particularly in the financial services, healthcare, securities, manufacturing, and telecommunications industries.

- Obtaining dismissal in a shareholder derivative class action lawsuit arising out of a \$1.5 billion sales transaction for a publicly traded company
- Obtaining a favorable settlement for a national bank after commencement of jury selection in a federal consumer finance trial in South Carolina

Securities & Capital Markets
Litigation

White Collar & Government
Enforcement Defense

Education

J.D., Duke University, 1998

B.A., Duke University, 1995,
cum laude

Admissions

North Carolina, 1998

United States Court of Appeals
- Fourth Circuit

United States Court of Appeals
- Eleventh Circuit

Eastern District of North
Carolina

Middle District of North
Carolina

Western District of North
Carolina

VALECIA M. MCDOWELL

- First chairing successful defense of Sarbanes-Oxley claims in Pennsylvania Administrative Hearing and on appeal before the Third Circuit
- Successfully arguing before the Eleventh Circuit in a product development dispute
- Successfully arguing before the North Carolina Business Court on behalf of Bank of America in its shareholder derivative lawsuit relating to the acquisition of Merrill Lynch

Notable

Valecia has been frequently recognized by her peers for excellence in the law:

- *Best Lawyers in America*, Litigation - Securities "Lawyer of the Year," 2023
- *Best Lawyers in America*, 2013-present
- *Chambers & Partners USA Leaders in their Field*, 2014-present
- *Chambers USA - North Carolina*, Litigation: General Commercial, 2014-2022, Litigation: White-Collar Crime & Government Investigations, 2021-2022
- *Business North Carolina* Legal Elite, Litigation, 2023
- *Business North Carolina's* Power List, 2022
- *Super Lawyers*, "Top 100" list North Carolina, 2017-2020, 2022-2023; "Top 25" list Charlotte, 2017-2023; "Top 50" list of Women North Carolina, 2020-2023; 2014-present
- *Benchmark Litigation* Future Stars, 2010-2017; Local Litigation Star, 2018-2023
- *Lawyers of Color* "Nation's Best" list, 2019; Fifth Power List, 2020
- *Julius L. Chambers* Diversity Champion Award, 2017
- *Super Lawyers* (Rising Stars), 2009-2013
- *Litigation Counsel of America*, 2009-present
- Co-chair, Moore & Van Allen Diversity Committee
- Current Board Member, Leading on Opportunity's Council
- Current Board Member, Duke University Law School's Board of Visitors
- Current Board Member, Charlotte Mecklenburg Community Foundation
- Current Board Member, Duke Law Alumnae Council
- Former General Counsel of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce and Charlotte Regional Business Alliance
- Former Board Chair, Arts & Science Council
- Former Board Chair, Community Building Initiative

Affiliations

- Former Member of the Local Rules Committee for the Western District of North Carolina