

JASON S. VARNADO

Partner

Jason Varnado is an experienced trial lawyer and the head of litigation for the Houston Office. His practice involves representing businesses and individuals during investigations by federal and state governmental authorities for potential criminal charges; actively litigating criminal and civil actions on behalf of clients facing allegations of fraud, false claims, and other business-related wrongdoing; and advising corporate clients regarding compliance issues to avoid governmental sanctions.

Since joining Jones Day, Jason has served as lead investigative and defense counsel in numerous high-profile criminal and civil matters involving alleged violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), the Controlled Substances Act (CSA), the False Claims Act (FCA), the Anti-Kickback Statute (AKS), and the Clean Air Act (CAA). He has also represented business and individuals accused of federal campaign contribution violations, economic espionage, and federal income tax offenses.

Before joining Jones Day, Jason served with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) for 10 years in several top-level positions. He tried 15 federal criminal cases to verdict, including one of the few cases under the FCPA ever to be tried to a jury, and was awarded U.S. Attorney General's "John Marshall Award" for Outstanding Achievement in Litigation, the Department's highest award for legal performance in a specialized area.

Jason has been recognized by numerous publications, including *Chambers USA*, *Best Lawyers in America*, *Super Lawyers*, and *Houstonia* magazine.

PRACTICES

Investigations & White Collar Defense

Health Care & Life Sciences

Securities Litigation & SEC Enforcement

Cybersecurity, Privacy & Data Protection

LOCATIONS

Houston

EDUCATION

The University of Texas at Austin (J.D. with honors 2000; Texas Law Review); Clemson University (B.S. in Industrial Engineering magna cum laude 1996)

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

Texas, California, District of Columbia, all U.S. District Courts in Texas, and U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Served with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas (2005-2015) in the following positions: Chief, Major Fraud Section; Senior Litigation Counsel; Assistant U.S. Attorney, Major Fraud Section; and also served at the Executive Office for United States Attorneys as the National White Collar & Cyber Crime Coordinator (2013-2014) and the National White Collar Crime Coordinator (2010-2011)

HONORS & DISTINCTIONS

Chambers USA: litigation: white-collar crime & government investigations (2019 and 2020)

Best Lawyers in America: criminal defense: white collar (2019-2021)

Texas Super Lawyers (2016-2021)

Recipient of honors for exceptional legal work from the U.S. Departments of Justice, Homeland Security, Health and Human Services, Treasury, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the National Health Care Anti-Fraud Association
