



Cormac T. Connor

PARTNER

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OVERVIEW

A former AUSA with substantial experience in private practice, Cormac defends individuals and corporations facing criminal and civil investigations.

Cormac is a trial lawyer with over two decades of experience with high-stakes litigation and investigations, both as a federal prosecutor and as defense counsel. He has advised dozens of clients facing criminal and civil investigations involving all manners of federal criminal cases, federal and state False Claims Act matters, criminal antitrust allegations, and Foreign Corrupt Practices Act claims. Cormac regularly assists clients with responses to formal and informal investigative inquiries, including civil investigative demands, Grand Jury subpoenas, Office of Inspector General subpoenas and inquiries, and 28 U.S.C. § 1782 subpoenas. He appreciates the intense pressure that comes with any law enforcement investigation and helps individuals and organizations navigate the legal, financial, and reputational impacts that often follow.

Cormac has advised federal contractors facing fraud and other types of investigations, and he regularly handles False Claims Act allegations on both the federal and state levels, as well as trade enforcement investigations related to export controls and tariff

“He has a calm, confident presence that gives a lot of reassurance when tackling more complex matters.”

— Chambers USA 2026

Industry

Real Estate, Development, & Construction

Services

Antitrust & Competition

Antitrust Litigation

Congressional Investigations

False Claims Act

Government Contracts

White Collar, Internal Investigations, & Compliance

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requirements. He has also managed internal investigations on behalf of clients related to concerns about regulatory, statutory, or policy compliance by management and employees. When advising clients, Cormac turns investigatory data into cogent, actionable advice, routinely presenting findings, and assessments of potential areas of risk or legal exposure to management. He advises boards of directors and senior management on internal investigation findings, recommended corrective actions, and interactions with U.S. law enforcement authorities.

Cormac regularly works with government agencies, state attorneys general, and their offices, as well as government investigators on behalf of clients. Recognizing how stressful these interactions can be, he offers comprehensive representation—guiding clients through communications with investigators, coordinating subpoena responses, and managing civil investigative demands and other information requests.

In 2008, Cormac transitioned from private practice to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, where he served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for four years. During his tenure, he led 24 criminal trials, investigated hundreds of cases, oversaw Grand Jury proceedings, and directed law enforcement investigative efforts. Drawing on this experience, Cormac now helps clients mitigate risk and avoid prosecution through proactive compliance strategies.

Case Study

Helping Modify State Licensure Questionnaires in 10 States

Husch Blackwell helped the Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes Foundation review and modify the mental health-related questions asked by state physician and nurse licensing boards.

Experience

- Represented service-disabled veteran owner of small business after armed FBI and DOD investigating agents executed search warrants on client's home and business locations. Evaluated client's business and contracting practices to develop defenses against procurement fraud allegations. Successfully persuaded prosecution team to close case without any adverse action against client.

Experience

- Assisted officer involved in multiple businesses that provided support services to federal contractors during DOJ criminal and civil investigations. Engaged and negotiated with prosecution team until both investigations were closed without adverse action against client. Delivered presentations to suspension and debarment officials and security clearance review officials, resulting in no suspension, no debarment, and approval of client's clearance.
- Counseled defense contractor during FCA investigation related to counterfeit part allegations. Evaluated underlying technology and supply chain history. Coordinated expert witness review, working closely with company personnel to evaluate quality, procurement, and manufacturing review procedures. Engaged with DOJ and DOD investigators to negotiate resolution with no admission of wrongdoing.
- Advised large government contractor during FCA investigation initiated by DOJ and DOD-OIG regarding issues related to procurement of Defense Base Act insurance. Reviewed pricing and market analysis efforts performed by client to evaluate insurance costs, seek competitive rates, and evaluate insurance provider and broker coverage and services, as well as invoicing related to same. Drafted and delivered presentation of findings to investigators. Persuaded investigative team to close inquiry without adverse action against client.
- Assisted aerospace client in responses to BIS, DHS, and DOJ inquiries related to import and export compliance matters. Interviewed relevant personnel, gathered responsive documents, and negotiated with law enforcement personnel to resolve matters without adverse consequences for client or employees.
- Represented healthcare-sharing ministry during investigations or inquiries arising from various state regulatory or investigating agencies. Evaluated legal compliance and advocated for constitutional religious liberty matters arising from inquiries.
- Advised individual business owner facing federal investigation related to tax evasion and bank fraud allegations. Coordinated with local counsel related to impacts on state and local litigation and other related investigations.

Experience

- Counseled client in response to grand jury subpoena related to criminal procurement fraud, bribery, and kickback allegations. Assisted in negotiating full immunity from criminal prosecution in advance of testimony before grand jury. Prepared client for testimony, document productions, and interactions with federal investigators.
- Represented federal contractors that qualified for small business set-aside contracts, including as small businesses, service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses (SDVOSBs), minority and woman-owned businesses, and HUBZone businesses. Representations involved criminal procurement fraud allegations or claimed violations of the False Claims Act.
- Represented former owner of small business that contracted with DOD and other agencies to provide clothing, equipment, and other materials to military and civilian personnel. Investigation arose from qui tam FCA complaint and included allegations of small business fraud, kickbacks, and TINA violations. Inquiry expanded by the DOJ, resulting in criminal allegations. Advised client during interviews with DOJ investigators and secured full immunity before grand jury testimony. Investigation resulted in FCA settlements and/or criminal guilty pleas for other parties, but no adverse action taken against the client.
- Advised minority-share owner of federal contractor that provides training and counseling services to DOD and various military branches. Investigation led by DOJ and DOD-OIG. Reviewed documents and interviewed witnesses to develop understanding of client's role in operations. Advised client during debarment proceedings. Matter resolved with no adverse action taken related to client via DOJ civil or criminal investigation. Debarment proceedings closed with no adverse action taken.

Experience

- Advised large government contractor in subpoena response to DOJ related to investigation into FCA and other fraud allegations arising from base support operations in Somalia. Allegations pertained to fuel and water costs and general inventory tracking matters. Reviewed client records and cost submissions to DOD. Interviewed personnel associated with base operations and compiled pertinent documents. Drafted and delivered presentation to DOJ. Persuaded investigative team to close inquiry without adverse action taken related to client.
- Represented small business and owner of business as holder and operator of wireless spectrum licenses during response to qui tam FCA investigation. Led internal investigation and response to DOJ inquiries related to allegations of fraud and FCA violations related to whether client's business qualified for credits given to small businesses at spectrum auctions. Developed and delivered presentation to DOJ and FCC officials regarding findings. Persuaded DOJ to decline to intervene in case.
- Represented naval engineering contractor during DCAA investigation that involved potential fraud and FCA issues. Allegations related to possible inaccurate certifications held by metallurgy testing subcontractor used by client. Evaluated certifications and requirements related to same. Advised client on mitigation efforts to demonstrate that products and testing methodologies were sound, despite alleged certification deficiencies of certain individual testers. Persuaded DCAA to close investigation without adverse action taken.
- Advised government contractor regarding wage reporting and cost allocation issues between commercial and federal contracts. Conducted internal investigation related to same in response to internal whistleblower complaint, with emphasis on potential FCA or other fraud risk exposure. Reported to CFO and then to Board regarding findings and recommendations.

Experience

- Represented large government contractor in subpoena response to DOJ and SIGAR related to investigation into FCA and other fraud allegations arising from operations in Afghanistan. Allegations pertained to building code compliance for prefabricated structures on several bases. Reviewed client records, construction and housing code requirements, and submissions to DOD re: same. Interviewed personnel associated with base operations and compiled pertinent documents. Subpoena response completed without adverse action taken related to client.
- Represented owner of SDVOSB contractor during DOJ and SIGAR investigation into allegations of FCA, fraud and other misconduct during performance of contracts related to aircraft maintenance in Afghanistan. Allegations pertained to mischarging of time and false certifications as to whether personnel satisfied education requirements. Allegations arose from qui tam relator, other developed by SIGAR's separate investigation. Client pled guilty to criminal fraud charges regarding mischarging of time but sentenced to probation.
- Advised TRICARE health care claims processing contractor facing VA-OIG investigation into allegations that client's claims processing had resulted in reverse false claims owed to government. Coordinated with expert witness retained to assist in evaluation of claims processing methods and practices. Interviewed company personnel responsible for procedures and supervision of claims processing efforts. Matter resulted in civil settlement with VA.
- Represented both importers and exporters in trade investigations by trade enforcement agencies, including the Department of Commerce, Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Export controls in question have included sanctions against Russia and other blacklisted nations.
- Represent a small business in investigation related to small business fraud and antitrust allegations, with DOJ investigating whether the company's alleged affiliations affect its ability to qualify for set aside contracts.

Recognition

- *The Best Lawyers in America*®
 - Criminal Defense: White-Collar, 2023-2026
- *Chambers USA*,
 - Litigation: White Collar Crime & Government Investigations, 2025-2026
 - Government Contracts, 2026
- *The Legal 500 United States*
 - Government contracts, Recommended lawyer, 2024 and 2025

Education

- J.D., Georgetown University Law Center
 - Dean's List
 - *Immigration Law Journal*
- B.A., Davidson College
 - History

Admissions

- District of Columbia
- Virginia
- Colorado
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Virginia
- U.S. District Court, District of Columbia
- U.S. Court of Federal Claims

Community Leadership

- Board Member, Eagle's Nest Foundation, 2013–present



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