



William E. Walsh



Partner

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Main Bio

Bill represents clients in the financial sector in litigation and regulatory matters. He has deep experience in complex commercial litigation and class actions, including matters related to securities fraud, market manipulation, auditor liability, and high-frequency trading. Bill represents clients in SEC, CFTC, and exchange investigations, and prosecutions. He has extensive knowledge of the financial markets and the regulations governing those markets, including securities, commodities and derivatives, and digital assets.

Bill spent four years at American global markets company CME Group Inc., the world's largest financial derivatives exchange. At CME Group, he prosecuted rule violations, conducted hearings before exchange disciplinary panels, and administered the exchange arbitration process. His experience there provided him valuable perspective that informs the advice he provides clients in the complex litigation, investigative and regulatory matters he now handles in private practice.

Bill has served as an adjunct professor at the Loyola University Chicago School of Law.

Broad knowledge

Bill is a seasoned litigator, with experience in various forums, including federal and state courts, administrative agency proceedings, and arbitration. In the financial markets, he has experience with a broad range of financial products and asset classes. At CME Group, he was responsible for regulating trading in futures and options in agricultural products, currencies, energy, interest rates, metals, stock indexes, and cryptocurrencies.

Prosecutorial experience

As senior enforcement counsel in CME Group's Market Regulation Department, Bill investigated and prosecuted rule violations on CME Group Exchanges related to matters such as

Related Practices

Litigation

White Collar, Government Investigations & Regulatory Compliance

Related Industries

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Education

- Georgetown University Law Center, J.D.
- University of Southern California, B.A.

Credentials

- Illinois

Memberships

- Judicial Evaluation Committee, Chicago Bar Association

disruptive trading and messaging, spoofing, trading algorithms and system malfunctions, wash trades, position limit violations and non-competitive trading.

Cryptocurrency

Bill has written and advised on numerous issues surrounding cryptocurrency and coin offerings, including ongoing developments in regulation of digital assets by the SEC, CFTC and other regulators.

Articles and Presentations

- What the Future May Hold for Crypto Asset Litigation and Regulation, March 21, 2025
- CFTC Issues Staff Advisory Letters on DCO Regulation: Prime Brokerage Arrangements and Digital Assets, June 8, 2023
- Swaps Enforcement Update: Business Conduct Standards for Swap Dealers and Major Swap Participants, May 25, 2023
- Digital Assets Go Institutional: Compliance and Legal Considerations SIFMA's C&L Annual Seminar | William E. Walsh, SIFMA's C&L Annual Seminar, March 14, 2023
- Co-author, "Futures Markets Enforcement Trends," The Review of Securities & Commodities Regulation, February 8, 2023
- Court Rules Digital Asset DAOs Can Be Sued by the CFTC, January 4, 2023
- CFTC's Annual Enforcement Results Include Notable and Novel Cases, November 2, 2022
- CFTC Takes Aim at DAO Members in bZeroX Settlement, September 28, 2022
- What High Court Vaccine Ruling Could Mean for Crypto Regs, March 21, 2022
- Co-author, A Practitioner's Guide to Class Actions (Third Edition), 2021

News

- William E. Walsh mentioned in Crain's Chicago People on the Move, December 18, 2023
- William E. Walsh mentioned in Law360 article | "Benesch Adds Financial Litigation Partner in Chicago", October 17, 2023
- Benesch Welcomes William E. Walsh as Partner in Chicago, October 12, 2023