

Vanessa Singh Johannes

SHAREHOLDER

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Overview

Vanessa Singh Johannes is an experienced trial attorney whose practice focuses on complex litigation matters. For more than a decade, she served as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Florida, trying dozens of federal jury trials and handling appellate matters before the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Vanessa currently represents clients in a variety of defense matters, ranging from civil and criminal fraud investigations to product liability suits. She also handles complex internal investigations for corporate clients.

In her distinguished career as a federal prosecutor, Vanessa investigated, indicted, and tried cases involving crimes such as fraud and money laundering, espionage, civil rights, arms trafficking, human trafficking, and violent crimes. Vanessa has deep working knowledge and experience with all phases of government investigations — from grand jury inquiries to monthlong jury trials — and has a close working relationship with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, such as the FBI and HSI. Vanessa served as the Southern District of Florida's Project Safe Childhood coordinator, assisting federal agents and human trafficking prosecutors with training and case preparedness, as well as handling the intake of all child exploitation cases in Miami. Vanessa earned the prestigious Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service in 2018 for her work prosecuting Christopher R. Glenn, a U.S. citizen and Department of Defense contractor, who committed a host of national security, fraud, and human trafficking violations. Prior to serving as a federal prosecutor, Vanessa was a senior associate at Kirkland & Ellis LLP in New York City.

Vanessa has a developed track record of representing *Fortune* 500 companies in complex litigation and during crisis mode. Her notable matters include representing a large financial institution in multibillion-dollar federal antitrust litigation; a nonprofit foundation in a lawsuit against a purported hedge fund manager, who ran a million-dollar Ponzi scheme in New York; a large telecommunications company in an environmental toxic tort litigation in federal court; corporate executives accused of federal health care fraud and money laundering violations; a large utility and energy company conducting an internal investigation into potential corruption actions committed by company managers and executives; and a large toy manufacturer in a negligence suit stemming from injuries allegedly related to a product.

Born in Guyana and raised in South Miami, Vanessa is as committed to her community as she is to her clients. She has volunteered as a writing coach for the Posse Foundation, which provides minority high school students with college scholarships and training in writing and leadership skills. Vanessa is also an active member of the Gwen S. Cherry Black Women Lawyers Association and the Caribbean Bar Association. She sits on the board of directors for the Federal Bar Association's South Florida chapter and the Miami-Dade Beacon Council.

Vanessa is the Miami office co-managing shareholder.

Experience

Tried more than 25 cases before a federal jury as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Florida. Jury trial victories include the following prosecutions:

- A high school teacher for enticing a minor student to engage in sexual relations.
- A former military contractor for sexually trafficking Honduran minors.
- A violent Haitian gang leader and pimp for brandishing, beating, and sexually trafficking women.
- A long-distance truck driver for kidnapping and sexually assaulting a woman.
- A city of Miami firefighter for distribution of infant and toddler child pornography.
- A Russian organization for operating a sex trafficking and money laundering conspiracy under the guise of a high-end escort agency.
- An aerospace executive for arranging and orchestrating a murder-for-hire plot against his business partner, which was fortunately prevented by an FBI informant.

Representative civil matters include:

- Represented a *Fortune* 500 financial institution in a billion-dollar antitrust litigation in federal court.
- Represented a nonprofit foundation in a lawsuit against a purported hedge fund manager who ran a million-dollar Ponzi scheme in New York.
- Represented a *Fortune* 100 telecommunications company in an environmental toxic tort litigation in federal court.
- Represented various corporations' litigation interests in bankruptcy court.

Areas of Focus

Practices

- [White Collar Crime & Government Investigations](#)
- [Global Anti-Corruption](#)
- [Internal Investigations](#)
- [Class Actions](#)

Insights

09.27.2022

DOJ Issues New Guidance on the Investigation and Prosecution of Corporations and Corporate Officers

News

08.16.2023

Vanessa Singh Johannes Appointed to Miami-Dade Beacon Council Board of Directors

08.16.2023

Vanessa Singh Johannes Elected to Board of Directors of Federal Bar Association's South Florida Chapter

06.11.2023

Vanessa Singh Johannes Quoted by CBS News: "Former President Donald Trump Hitting Campaign Trail in Georgia, Speaks Out on Indictment"

03.15.2023

Vanessa Singh-Johannes Quoted in Daily Business Review: "Support Meant the World to Me': South Florida Female Partners on How They Climbed the Ladder"

03.03.2023

Vanessa Singh-Johannes Featured in Law360: “Carlton Fields Names Ex-Prosecutor as Miami Co-Leader”

02.28.2023

Vanessa Singh Johannes Named Co-Managing Shareholder of Carlton Fields’ Miami Office

02.16.2023

Law360: “Carlton Fields Promotes 8 Shareholders in 5 Offices”

02.15.2023

Carlton Fields Elects Eight Attorneys to Shareholder

02.16.2022

Carlton Fields Attorneys Named to Leadership Council on Legal Diversity 2022 Fellows and Pathfinders Programs

09.20.2021

Office Snapshot: Carlton Fields’ Miami Location

01.14.2021

Assistant U.S. Attorney Joins Carlton Fields in Miami

01.14.2021

Asst. U.S. Attorney Vanessa Singh Johannes Joins Carlton Fields in Miami

Professional & Community Involvement

- Miami-Dade Beacon Council
 - Board of Directors
- Federal Bar Association
 - Board of Directors
- American Bar Association
- Caribbean Bar Association

- Gwen S. Cherry Black Women Lawyers Bar Association
- Leadership Council on Legal Diversity
 - Fellow (2022)
- Miami Beach Bar Association

Speaking Engagements

- "AI for Defense and Intelligence," eMerge Americas, Miami, FL (April 18, 2024)
- "Educational Policy: Public Schools and the U.S. Supreme Court," Florida Law Con (March 31, 2023)
- "Redistricting: The Legal Parameters of Redistricting ... Where Does It End?," Miami Law Con (April 22, 2022)
- "The Future of Sentencing: A Look at the Federal Sentencing Guidelines," American Constitution Society, Florida Chapter (June 28, 2021)

Credentials

Education

- Duke University School of Law (J.D., 2006)
- University of Florida (B.A., summa cum laude, 2003)

Bar Admissions

- Florida
- New York

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida