




Gene Rossi

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Overview

With nearly three decades of criminal and civil litigation experience at the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Gene Rossi leverages the skills he honed as a federal prosecutor to concentrate on matters related to white collar criminal defense and government investigations.

During his DOJ career, Gene had more than 110 federal trials (including an unprecedented 90 jury trials) in U.S. district and bankruptcy courts. From 1989-2001, he worked in the Tax Division, trying complex civil and criminal matters and serving on an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF).

In 2001, he became an assistant U.S. attorney in the Eastern District of Virginia, which is known as the “Rocket Docket.” There, he led and supervised a vast array of significant investigations involving the opioid crisis, OCDETF, murder, health care, tax, immigration, public corruption, terrorism, and the environment. Gene also served as deputy chief of the Narcotics Unit, and later as chief of the Specials Unit, where he trained more than 1,000 new prosecutors in the Rocket Docket and at the DOJ’s National Advocacy Center. In the Eastern District of Virginia alone, he had a record 65 felony jury trials. Because of his many high-profile trials, the Alexandria Division of the Eastern District of Virginia set aside a special area in his honor called the “Gene Rossi War Room.”

One of his most notable matters was the OCDETF Operation “Cotton Candy,” the largest opioid investigation in DOJ history, with more than 200 convictions of doctors, pharmacists, nurses, patients, and dealers. As part of Cotton Candy, Gene had numerous trials in the Eastern District of Virginia, including two lengthy jury trials against a prominent pain management doctor (William Hurwitz), who prescribed 1,200 oxycodone pills daily to one patient alone. Gene’s two Dr. Hurwitz trials and other Cotton Candy cases served as the basis for a 2016 Hollywood documentary (“Dr. Feelgood”).

Gene’s other prominent DOJ matters included a major civil tax trial against a Chicago alderman, the OCDETF trial of a violent murderer (responsible for more than 30 deaths), and the prosecution of General Sekouba Konate of the 54-nation African Union, who pleaded guilty to charges of false statements and smuggling cash into the United States that he had received when he was president of Guinea.

Gene’s courtroom achievements have earned him numerous commendations, including the FBI Washington Field Office’s Career Achievement Award in 2016 — the first (if not only) time the award has ever been presented to a prosecutor. He also received the following DOJ honors: a Tax Division Outstanding Attorney Award in 1993; a Director’s Award in 2005; and a DEA Administrator’s Award for his lead role in Operation Cotton Candy.

Gene’s passion for teaching extends beyond his training of more than the 1,000 DOJ prosecutors. He has taught legal writing and ethics at American University Law School, constitutional law and criminal procedure at George Mason University, and trial advocacy at Harvard and University of Virginia law schools.

He is a frequent legal commentator and trial analyst. He is often quoted in articles and has appeared on many cable and radio shows, including CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, ABC News, CBS News, Law & Crime Network, Court TV, Hill TV, and several others. Moreover, he has a regular radio program (“The Gene Rossi Show”) in the Richmond, Virginia, area on WJFN 100.5 FM (www.wjfnradio.com).

In 2017, Gene ran for lieutenant governor of Virginia. A longtime youth basketball coach, Gene was a Connecticut all-state basketball player (1,300 career points, including 41 points in one high school game).

A brief sample of the scope of Gene’s representation of defendants, targets, and witnesses in high-profile criminal and civil matters includes: Robert Mueller’s Paul Manafort trial; the Southern District of New York’s Stormy Daniels election fraud investigation involving Michael Cohen and the president; the January 6, 2021, U.S. Capitol investigation by the DOJ; federal RICO, organized crime, drug trafficking, bank and wire fraud, and national security cases in the Eastern District of Virginia, the Western District of Virginia, the Southern District of New York, New Jersey, the District of Columbia, and elsewhere; various state cases involving a multitude of felony crimes; and obtaining a favorable state jury verdict in defending against wrongful termination and shareholder claims.

Experience

- Represented mother of 6-year-old boy who shot teacher and obtained a sentence of 21 months in federal case where maximum penalty was 25 years in prison.

- Represented a defendant in a six-week jury trial related to the Justice Department's January 6 investigation and successfully obtained a sentence of probation over the government's request of close to 100 months' imprisonment upon a conviction on all seven counts.
- Successfully represented prominent pain management doctor in federal narcotics trafficking and health care fraud grand jury investigations. No charges were filed.
- Successfully represented CPA in Robert Mueller investigation of Paul Manafort. No charges were filed against client.
- Successfully represented lawyer in SDNY grand jury investigation of election law violations by former president's attorney Michael Cohen. No charges were filed against client.
- Lead trial attorney in federal RICO, organized crime, drug trafficking, bank and wire fraud, and national security cases in the Eastern District of Virginia, the Western District of Virginia, the Southern District of New York, New Jersey, the District of Columbia, and elsewhere.
- Obtained a favorable state jury verdict in defending against wrongful termination and shareholder claims.
- Lead trial attorney in the prosecution of the largest opioid investigation in DOJ history, Operation "Cotton Candy," involving more than 200 convictions of doctors, pharmacists, nurses, patients, and dealers and two lengthy jury trials against prominent pain management doctor William Hurwitz.
- Lead trial attorney in a major civil tax trial against a Chicago alderman.
- Lead trial attorney in OCDETF trial of a violent murderer responsible for more than 30 deaths.
- Lead trial attorney in the prosecution of General Sekouba Konate of the 54-nation African Union, who pleaded guilty to charges of false statements and smuggling cash into the United States that he had received when he was president of Guinea.

Areas of Focus

Practices

- [White Collar Crime & Government Investigations](#)
- [Criminal Tax](#)
- [Global Anti-Corruption](#)
- [Internal Investigations](#)
- [Securities Litigation and Enforcement](#)

Insights

02.01.2024

"Helter Skelter:" Lyrics Matter

07.01.2023

Four Rules to Establish That Your Evidence Is Legit

01.10.2023

Appearing in the Red Glare of the Rocket Docket

06.10.2020

Federal Reserve Board Expands Main Street Lending Program

05.04.2020

Update on the Reserve Board's Main Street Program: Moves to Assist Larger Businesses

03.31.2020

Federal and State Officials Launch Joint Efforts to Investigate and Prosecute Fraud Related to the Coronavirus

News

03.22.2024

Gene Rossi Quoted in Newsweek: "Donald Trump Trial Could Be Over by May"

02.10.2024

Gene Rossi Quoted in USA Today: "Did Special Counsel Cross the Line in Bashing Biden's Memory? Even Some Republicans Think So"

02.09.2024

Gene Rossi Quoted in Politico: "'Confidential' in Name Only: Merrick Garland's Delicate Decision to Release the Hur Report"

12.20.2023

Gene Rossi Quoted in Newsweek: “Jack Smith's Latest Move Raises Eyebrows: Not 'the Wisest'”

12.18.2023

Gene Rossi Quoted in CBS News: “Federal Judge Warns of Jan. 6 Case Backlog as Supreme Court Weighs Key Obstruction Statute”

10.24.2023

Gene Rossi Interviewed on KNX Los Angeles Radio: “Rough Legal Day for Former President Trump”

10.20.2023

Gene Rossi Quoted in Bloomberg: “Trump Lawyer Chesebro Pleads Guilty in Georgia Election Case”

06.07.2023

Gene Rossi Quoted by the Associated Press: “Mother of 6-Year-Old Who Shot Teacher Faces Federal Charges Over Marijuana Use, Gun Possession”

01.07.2023

Gene Rossi Quoted in Newsweek: “Trump Indictment for Mar-a-Lago Documents Coming 'Soon,' Attorney Predicts”

04.20.2021

Carlton Fields' Gene Rossi Featured on KNX 1070 Radio Discussing Chauvin Case

03.01.2021

Four Carlton Fields Attorneys Elected to Shareholder

07.25.2018

Gene Rossi Authors Article in Politico: “Michael Cohen's Tape Is Trouble for Trump”

07.12.2018

Prison Jumpsuit and Mystery Meats: Inside Manafort's New Jail Experience

05.15.2018

At Mueller Probe's First Trial, Expect More Blunt Lectures From the Bench

12.14.2017

Renowned Federal Prosecutor Gene Rossi Joins Carlton Fields

Professional & Community Involvement

- American Bar Association

Speaking Engagements

- "Ethics: Plea Bargaining and Ethical Considerations for Prosecutors and Defense Attorneys,"
Virginia Trial Lawyers Association (November 12, 2020)

Credentials

Education

- Georgetown University Law Center (LL.M., 1994)
- American University Washington College of Law (J.D., 1982)
- Fairfield University (B.A., cum laude, 1978)

Court Admissions

- Connecticut Supreme Court
- Virginia Supreme Court
- U.S. Court of Appeals, D.C. Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Virginia

Bar Admissions

- Connecticut
- District of Columbia
- Virginia

Videos

04.16.2024

[Guest Appearance on CNN The Lead with Jake Tapper](#)

04.03.2024

Guest Appearance on CNN The Lead with Jake Tapper

03.01.2024

Guest Appearance on CNN Max with Becky Anderson

02.16.2024

Guest Appearance on CNN's The Lead with Jake Tapper

02.08.2024

Guest Appearance on CNN Laura Coates Live

01.26.2024

Guest Appearance on CNN Laura Coates Live

01.02.2024

Guest Appearance on CNN Laura Coates Live

10.02.2023

Guest Appearance on CNN Max

09.22.2023

Guest Appearance on CNN Tonight

09.05.2023

Guest Appearance on CNN News Central

09.02.2023

Guest Appearance on CNN Tonight

09.01.2023

Guest Appearance on CNN Tonight

08.22.2023 [Guest Appearance on CNN Primetime](#)

08.16.2023 [Guest Appearance on CNN Primetime](#)

08.09.2023 [Guest Appearance on CNN Primetime](#)

07.31.2023 [Guest Appearance on CNN Primetime](#)

08.01.2023 [Guest Appearance on the Rachel Maddow Show Part 2](#)

08.01.2023 [Guest Appearance on the Rachel Maddow Show Part 1](#)
