

Our white-collar crime and regulatory enforcement expertise in Paris

Key differentiators

Depth of experience



We cover the full range of complex white-collar and regulatory internal investigations or in the context of enquiries, inspection, or enforcement proceedings initiated by financial regulators with which large organisations and high profile individuals may be confronted, such as: tax evasion market abuse, corruption, money laundering, misleading commercial practices, large frauds and other related offences.

Sector expertise



Our team has a track record of handling significant, high-profile cases, compliance and investigation issues for blue-chip multinationals, financial institutions and large corporates (oil & gas, energy, commodities, TMT, food, tobacco, etc.) We are second to none in the financial industry where we represent the world leading institutions as well as investment funds, payment institutions, investment service providers and investment firms. We also regularly represent and advise high profile individuals (top-level managers, bankers, traders, relationship managers, heads of compliance or legal, managers of business units, etc.).

Cutting-edge cases



We advise and represent clients on high-profile cases, which regularly make international news headlines. Currently, the team is defending the two largest money laundering cases ever brought in Europe.

Recognised trial lawyers



We prepare and assist our clients from the outset of an investigation until trial and appellate proceedings, before all French Criminal Courts and regulatory Enforcement Committees.

The team is recognised by major legal guides such as Chambers and Legal 500, with practice head Denis Chemla much praised by his clients.

Paris main contacts



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Core team



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Probably the largest white-collar team in the French market



Ten litigation specialists dedicated exclusively to white-collar crime and regulatory enforcement. The team brings together a variety of talented profiles, including lawyers who have spent time with judges, regulatory agencies, or as in-house counsel within international organisations. In case of need, our core team can draw upon additional resources from our wider Litigation team.

In-depth Investigations capabilities



Our team benefits from in-depth knowledge of French procedural requirements and strong experience of dealing with any issues that may arise within criminal, regulatory or civil proceedings. We have developed very close working relationships with the major regulatory authorities in the field, such as the Parquet National Financier, the French tax authorities, the AMF the ACPR and the AFA. We have worked with them, or opposite them, on very complex matters. This collaboration has helped build trust at personal level and cement solid relationships which are crucial when dealing with these issues. We provide our clients with tailored ad-hoc teams of qualified internal investigators and document reviewers.

Cross-border capabilities



Our team includes lawyers qualified in many different jurisdictions – civil law and common law – and fluent in a wide range of languages. This enables us to run crossborder matters efficiently. Our global reach gives us local-law expertise in 31 international jurisdictions. Our lawyers are able to provide clients with well-rounded and insightful advice that addresses local issues as well as the risks to a global business that arise from cross-border investigations.

Compliance Programs



We regularly assist our clients with setting-up or enhancing compliance programs tailored to their specific businesses (AML/FCT, MAR, Economic Sanctions and ABC programs).



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Our key white-collar crime experience includes advising:

A major U.S. investment bank

in conducting an internal investigation into serious concerns raised by one of its employees regarding potential regulatory breaches and criminal offenses.

A French investment bank

in the context of regulatory investigations led by the French financial markets authority (Autorité des marchés financiers) overlapping with criminal investigations into allegations of fraud in the wake of the so-called subprime crisis.

A major UK investment bank

in relation to an internal investigation whose main purpose is to identify the practices that could, in the future, lead to enforcement action from either the Criminal authorities or the French financial markets authority (ie MAR risk-mapping review).

Daimler AG

in relation to the prosecution initiated by the Criminal authorities and the French financial markets authority into allegations of insider trading (the EADS case).

A major Swiss bank

in a very large scale investigation led by the French criminal authorities in relation to allegations of laundering of proceeds of tax evasion.

A leader in asset management

in relation to an investigation led by the French financial markets authority (Autorité des marchés financiers) for alleged breaches of professional duties regarding securities' lending/borrowing.

One of the largest Nordic banks

in relation to a multijurisdictional sensitive case, linked to potential offenses of money-laundering of organised fraud and tax evasion proceeds, which are currently the subject of criminal investigations at the Financial division of the Paris Criminal Court.

A U.S. restaurant chain

in relation to a criminal investigation carried out by the National Financial Prosecutor (Procureur National Financier) into a tax evasion allegations scheme following a complaint for tax fraud filed by the French Tax Authorities.

A major player in the tobacco industry

in connection with a criminal complaint with the Paris Public Prosecutor for misleading and deliberately endangering the consumers of their products ("Filtergate" affair).

An international private bank

in the context of the so-called "Dubai Papers" which described an alleged international network for the purposes of laundering the proceeds of tax evasion.

A French Bank

in an internal cross-border investigation into allegations of fraud and conspiracy targeting its top-level management.

An energy group

in the largest international corruption case ever referred to the French Criminal Courts, on the grounds of alleged violations of the Oil for Food programme.

A global leader in payment solutions

in a complex case in relation to suspicious payments made by individuals to online binary options and FX trading websites often referred to as the 'FX and Binary Options fraud case' including both criminal and regulatory investigations, as well as civil litigation.

A major European company

in the automotive sector in connection with criminal investigations led by the National Financial Prosecutor into alleged transnational corrupt practices, involving foreign public officials.

One of the directors of a major oil company

in relation to criminal investigations into allegations of bribery of a foreign official, in relation to an oil and gas project in Libya.

A top-level manager of an asset management fund

in a transnational corruption case, involving suspicious transactions which also triggered a thorough internal investigation which led to the implementation of remediation and corrective measures, and enhancement and update of the company's ABC program.

An individual high-profile CFD trader

currently investigated by the National Financial Prosecutor within a major insider dealing case.

An ultra high-net-worth individual

in a corruption scandal involving major players of the water sanitation sector.

“Allen & Overy LLP is retained by banks, financial institutions and international companies to assist with the setting up of their compliance programmes, notably in the field of French anti-corruption.”

Legal 500 EMEA 2022 - France (Compliance)

“Allen & Overy LLP ’s white-collar crime practice is a **perfect fit** for banks and other leading financial institutions as the team combines criminal law expertise and **strong regulatory** and compliance know-how in the field.

Legal 500 EMEA 2022 – France (White-Collar Crime)

“The practice is defending banks in many of France’s recent tax fraud and money laundering scandals, some **among the largest cases** in Europe such as the landmark UBS tax fraud. The team also regularly defends banks facing criminal proceedings in relation to their financial products and other securities offenses in addition to assisting them when they have become victims of fraud. The practice also defends companies, CEOs and individuals from various other industry areas and is notably involved in several matters in the industrial and manufacturing sector.

Legal 500 EMEA 2022 – France (White-Collar Crime)

“Allen & Overy is a well-regarded team with **extensive experience** acting before authorities and criminal courts on investigation matters. The law firm also assists with corruption, fraud and regulatory files. The practice frequently handles cases with cross-border components thanks to the firm’s international network. Its client roster includes financial institutions and multinational companies.

Chambers Europe 2021 – France (Corporate Compliance & Investigations)