

GEORGE B. DONNINI

DIRECTOR

Troy
313 225 7042
donnini@butzel.com



George B. Donnini is renowned for providing his clients with not only exemplary counsel and advice, but also with a level of experience achieved only through years devoted to navigating the most daunting legal scenarios. When criminal investigations, charges, prosecution, and/or parallel civil investigations are looming—jeopardizing the personal and professional reputations of individuals or entities—Mr. Donnini’s knowledge provides the legal lifeline required to traverse even the most challenging situations.

During his more than 25 years in practice, George Donnini has accumulated an impressive record of prevailing in matters across the country in the areas of white collar criminal defense, Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) civil enforcement actions, antitrust investigations, and conducting corporate internal investigations. Due to the expansive nature of fraud claims, he routinely counsels his clients through criminal charges, civil liability issues and/or regulatory matters. He is experienced in managing complex litigation involving multiple adversaries, numerous jurisdictions, and interrelated issues. Throughout his career, George has interacted with state and federal prosecutors, law enforcement, and personnel at all levels in government agencies throughout the nation and internationally. Among his most recent victories is leading Butzel’s White Collar Criminal Defense Team in achieving back-to-back acquittals in separate cases in federal court against a tax attorney (allegations of mail fraud and tax evasion) and a medical doctor (39 counts of health care fraud related charges).

Mr. Donnini has experience in a broad array of criminal and civil cases, representing clients at the trial and appellate levels in federal and state courts across the US. He has extensive

Primary Practice Areas

Litigation and Dispute
Resolution

White Collar Criminal Defense

All Related Practice Areas

Aerospace & Defense Industry
Team

Aerospace and Defense

Antitrust Investigations

Business & Commercial
Litigation

Environment, Energy &
Sustainability

Environmental Criminal
Investigations

Environmental Litigation

Government & Internal
Investigations

Grand Jury Investigations

Internal Investigations

Litigation and Dispute
Resolution

Professional Liability/
Disciplinary Proceedings

Public Corruption

Regulatory Permitting &
Compliance

Securities Fraud

GEORGE B. DONNINI

experience representing clients in a variety of criminal cases involving allegations of health care, securities, and tax fraud, theft of trade secrets, insider trading, public corruption, and environmental and mortgage fraud. He has conducted numerous internal investigations for private and publicly traded companies. He aggressively, creatively, and successfully represents clients in a wide variety of federal and state criminal matters to secure the best possible outcome for his clients. Often, such representation results in convincing the government not to prosecute in the first place or the avoidance of litigation altogether. Clients include corporations and businesses in diverse sectors including health care, pharmaceuticals, automotive, environmental, and individuals including executives, medical professionals, corporate officers, directors, managers, lawyers, and employees at all levels.

George Donnini is a Shareholder practicing in the firm's Troy office. Mr. Donnini is a Vice President of Butzel and serves on the firm's Board of Directors. He is Chair of Butzel's Litigation and Dispute Resolution Practice Department, head of the Litigation Section, and serves as Co-Chair of the White-Collar Criminal Defense Practice Department. He has been recognized year-after-year by numerous well-respected industry publications for his legal prowess in the areas of white collar criminal defense and government investigations. Mr. Donnini is frequently sought as a legal expert by local and national radio and television syndications on a variety of topics.

Before joining Butzel, Mr. Donnini served as a law clerk to The Honorable William H. Pauley III, United States District Court, S.D.N.Y., New York, New York (1998-1999). He also served as a Judge Advocate for the United States Marine Corps from 1999 to 2003. He was honorably discharged from the Marine Corps in 2003 after serving as counsel of record in numerous criminal trials.

Credentials

EDUCATION

Duke University Law School, J.D.

Securities Litigation

Stark, Fraud & Abuse

Trade Secrets Theft

White Collar Crime, Civil
Defense, and Investigation

White Collar Criminal Defense

GEORGE B. DONNINI

George Washington University, B.A., *phi beta kappa*

ADMISSIONS

All United States District Courts in Michigan

California

Michigan

New York

Numerous District and Circuit Courts throughout the United States

MEMBERSHIPS

Federal Bar Association – President, Eastern District of Michigan Chapter, 2023

American Bar Association (ABA) – Litigation and Criminal Justice Sections

ABA – Criminal Justice Section, Book Board, Co-Chair 2022, Appointed Member, 2008–Present

ABA – Criminal Justice Section, White Collar Crime Committee Midwest Regional Co-Chair, 2005–2018

ABA – Criminal Justice Section, White Collar Crime Committee, Young Lawyers' Division National Co-Chair, 2006–2009

American Bar Foundation, Fellow (2022 to Present)

National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

Detroit Bar Association, Fellow and Member

Oakland County Bar Association, Member

Awards & Recognitions

Chambers USA – White-Collar Litigation & Government Investigations, 2021–2025 (Band 1)

The Best Lawyers in America® – Lawyer of the Year – Criminal Defense: White-Collar, 2023, 2025

The Best Lawyers in America® – Criminal Defense: White-Collar, 2021–2026; Commercial Litigation, 2025–2026

GEORGE B. DONNINI

DBusiness Top Lawyers in Metro Detroit – Non-White-Collar Criminal Defense Professional Malpractice Law, 2011-2012

DBusiness Top Lawyers in Metro Detroit – White-Collar Criminal Defense, 2011-2012, 2014, 2016-2025

DBusiness Top Lawyers in Metro Detroit – Antitrust Law, 2021-2023

Michigan *Super Lawyers* – Criminal Defense: White Collar, 2013-2025

Michigan *Super Lawyers* – Rising Stars –Criminal Defense: White Collar, 2011-2012

Crain's Detroit Business – Notable Veterans, 2020

Michigan *Lawyers Weekly* – Leaders in the Law, 2016

Michigan *Lawyers Weekly* – Up and Coming Lawyers, 2008