



RICHARD E. FINNERAN

Partner

St. Louis

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Biography

Richard E. Finneran is a partner in the firm's St. Louis office. His practice concentrates on white collar criminal matters, corporate internal investigations, and civil trial and appellate litigation, with a focus on government-facing work.

From 2010 to 2017, Mr. Finneran served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri, where he was responsible for prosecuting some of the region's most significant white collar matters, including the two largest financial fraud trials ever conducted by that office. His caseload as a federal prosecutor featured investment frauds, embezzlements, Ponzi schemes, securities frauds, tax evasion, Bank Secrecy Act violations, cybercrimes, public corruption, and money laundering matters. Mr. Finneran also supervised federal agents and assisted prosecutors in numerous other federal criminal cases and investigations, including bank robberies, child pornography offenses, drug trafficking, and violent crimes. Mr. Finneran has tried several cases in

federal court as both a prosecutor and a defense attorney and argued numerous appeals in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.

Mr. Finneran's work as a federal prosecutor earned him accolades from across the legal profession. His cases have been featured nationally in *Wired Magazine*, NPR's *Planet Money*, and NBC's *American Greed*. In 2014, Mr. Finneran received *Missouri Lawyers Weekly's* Legal Champion Award for his work in prosecuting the largest criminal fraud in the history of the Eastern District of Missouri. In 2016, he was honored with the Missouri Bar Foundation's David J. Dixon Appellate Advocacy Award, which recognizes exceptional appellate practice by a member of the Missouri Bar.

During his time at the U.S. Attorney's Office, Mr. Finneran supervised the office's Suspicious Activity Report Review Team and was a frequent presenter on the subject of Bank Secrecy Act compliance. Mr. Finneran also served as a member of the U.S. Department of Justice E-Discovery Working Group and an instructor at the National Advocacy Center on trial presentation and litigation technology. A former member of the Asset Forfeiture and Money Laundering Advisory Committee of the Department of Justice, Mr. Finneran is recognized nationally for his knowledge in federal forfeiture law, with his academic writing on the subject having been prominently featured in the *Cardozo Law Review*.

Mr. Finneran's representative experience since entering private practice has been marked by significant achievements in representing both individuals and organizations in and out of the courtroom.

- In June 2025, in a two-week federal criminal trial involving allegations of fraud against the U.S. government's Paycheck Protection Program, Mr. Finneran successfully obtained an acquittal on four out of the five charges brought against his client.
- In October 2025, a one-week civil trial in federal court in St. Louis alleging unfair competition under the Lanham Act and Missouri law, Mr. Finneran obtained a unanimous verdict on all counts in favor of his client.
- In an earlier representation, Mr. Finneran successfully persuaded federal prosecutors in Missouri not to bring an indictment against a child welfare organization being investigated for abuse, neglect, and false billing to Medicaid, and instead secured both a non-prosecution agreement for the organization and non-target assurances for the company's officers, directors, and employees.
- In another such representation, Mr. Finneran convinced federal prosecutors in Wisconsin to forgo indictment of the CEO of a retirement plan services company and to permit a multimillion-dollar sale of the company prior to the CEO's accepting a plea agreement that guaranteed a sentence of probation.

- In a high-profile federal prosecution of a tech start-up founder and CEO in Chicago, Mr. Finneran successfully obtained court orders resulting in the release of more than \$10 million in restrained property to his client and the compelled disclosure of internal government correspondence revealing the excessive nature of the government's pretrial restraint.

Beyond these notable and widely publicized cases, Mr. Finneran has obtained many more favorable results for clients while keeping the government's investigations from ever becoming known to the general public.

Mr. Finneran also serves as an adjunct professor at Washington University School of Law, where he has instructed students in constitutional law, criminal procedure, and appellate advocacy and has been recognized three times as the Adjunct Professor of the Year. He also serves as the head coach of the school's National Moot Court Team, which has won numerous national championships under his leadership.

Civic involvement & honors

- Coach, 2024 National Championship Team, Judge John Brown R. Admiralty Moot Court Competition
- Adjunct Professor of the Year, Washington University School of Law, 2022
- Coach, 2020 National Championship Team, William B. Spong Invitational Moot Court Tournament
- Coach, 2018 National Championship Team, William B. Spong Invitational Moot Court Tournament
- Adjunct Professor of the Year, Washington University School of Law, 2017
- Coach, 2017 National Championship Team, Judge John Brown R. Admiralty Moot Court Competition
- David J. Dixon Appellate Advocacy Award, The Missouri Bar Foundation, 2016
- Coach, 2016 National Championship Team, Evan A. Evans Constitutional Law Moot Court Competition
- Legal Champion Award, *Missouri Lawyers Weekly*, 2014
- Award for Distinguished Service, U.S. Food and Drug Administration Office of Criminal Investigations, 2014

- Outstanding Investigation of the Year, U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Missouri, 2014
- Outstanding Trial of the Year, U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Missouri, 2013
- Adjunct Professor of the Year, Washington University School of Law, 2013
- Coach, 2012 National Championship Team, American Bar Association National Appellate Advocacy Competition
- Chief Notes Editor, *Washington University Law Review*

Admissions

- Illinois
- Missouri

Education

Washington University in St. Louis, J.D., magna cum laude, Order of the Coif, Order of Barristers, 2008

University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, Highest Honors, 2005

Related capabilities

- White Collar
- Securities Litigation and Enforcement
- Broker-Dealer and Investment Advisor Regulatory Enforcement, Disputes and Investigations
- Higher Education
- Investigations
- Litigation & Dispute Resolution
- Regulation, Compliance & Advisory
- Appellate
- Business & Commercial Disputes
- State Attorneys General Practice

Resources

Publications

- “Filling the Gap in the Efficiency Gap: Measuring Partisan Gerrymandering on a Per-District Basis” (with Steven K. Luther), *Hastings Constitutional Law Quarterly*, vol. 46, no. 2, pp. 385–450 (2019)
- “Wherefore Moot Court?,” *Washington University Journal of Law & Policy*, vol. 52, no. 1, pp. 121–34 (2017)
- “Criminal Forfeiture and the Sixth Amendment: The Role of the Jury at Common Law” (with Steven K. Luther), *Cardozo Law Review*, vol. 35, no. 1, pp. 1–77 (2013)
- “Practical Tips for Recall Management and Consumer Messaging” (with Belinda May), *What’s in Store: Newsletter of the American Bar Association Section of Antitrust Law’s Consumer Protection Committee*, vol. 15, no. 2, p. 22 (Fall 2010)

Speaking engagements

- “Ethical Issues for Corporate Counsel in Internal Investigations,” *Public Company Update and Other Trending Legal Topics CLE Program*, December 11, 2018
- “Board Oversight of Data and Analytics,” *KPMG/BCLP Directors Roundtable*, June 19, 2018
- “Legal Fundamentals of Data Privacy and Security for Human Resources Professionals,” *Presentation at the 2018 ESCO Human Resources Conference*, June 14, 2018
- “Ethical Issues for Corporate Counsel in Internal Investigations,” *Presentation at the 2018 Bryan Cave In-House Counsel Continuing Legal Education Seminar*, St. Louis, June 13, 2018
- “Ethical Issues for Corporate Counsel in Internal Investigations,” *Presentation at the 2018 Bryan Cave In-House Counsel Continuing Legal Education Seminar*, Kansas City, June 5, 2018
- “Separating Fact from Fiction: Understanding the Actual Liabilities of a Cyber Attack,” *Presentation at the 2018 ACC Chicago Summit*, May 17, 2018
- “Federal Criminal Forfeiture: An Overview for CJA Practitioners,” *Presentation at the Sixteenth Annual Criminal Justice Act Seminar*, May 10, 2018
- “Legal Fundamentals of Data Privacy and Security for Cybersecurity Professionals,” *Presentation at the Cybersecurity Roundtable*, Washington University, March 15, 2018
- “Cybersecurity and Cyberinsurance for a Data Breach: Common Intrusion Techniques,” *Presentation at Danna McKittrick, P.C.*, July 21, 2017

- “Federal Financial Crimes: An Overview,” Presentation at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, July 6, 2017
- “Bank Secrecy Act Compliance and Consequences,” Presentation to the Montgomery Bank BSA Front Line Committee, November 6, 2016
- “*United States v. Beyer*. A Case Study,” Presentation to the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Missouri, October 6, 2016
- “The Value of Presentation Tools: An AUSA’s Perspective,” Presentation at the U.S. Department of Justice National Advocacy Center, September 15, 2016
- “How to Shortcut Your Case Organization,” Presentation at the U.S. Department of Justice National Advocacy Center, September 14, 2016
- “The Mission of the U.S. Attorney’s Office,” Presentation at Washington University School of Law, April 22, 2016
- “Financial Fraud in the 21st Century: New Trends and Old Tricks,” Presentation at the Institute of Internal Auditors and Association of Certified Fraud Examiners Multi-Track Event, March 31, 2016
- “Federal Financial Crimes: An Overview,” Presentation to OASIS Network, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, November 6, 2015
- “Asset Forfeiture Law and Procedure,” Presentation at Internal Revenue Service Training Event, August 26, 2015
- “Federal Financial Crimes: An Overview,” Presentation for “Law and the Economy” Series, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, July 15, 2015
- “Suspicious Activity Report Roundtable,” Presentation to the BSA/AML Association of Metropolitan St Louis, July 15, 2015
- “The Value of Presentation Tools: An AUSA’s Perspective,” Presentation at the U.S. Department of Justice National Advocacy Center, June 11, 2015
- “How to Shortcut Your Case Organization,” Presentation at the U.S. Department of Justice National Advocacy Center, June 9, 2015
- “Recent Developments in Federal Criminal Law,” Presentation to U.S. National Park Service, March 15, 2015

- “Bank Secrecy Act: How to Write Better SARs,” Presentation to the Montgomery Bank BSA Front Line Committee, October 9, 2014
- “The Mission of the U.S. Attorney’s Office,” Presentation to L.L.M. Students, Washington University School of Law, June 3, 2014
- “Criminal Forfeiture: Federal and State Procedures,” Presentation to Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, April 17, 2014
- “What Forfeiture Can Do For You,” Presentation to the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Missouri, June 26, 2014

Related insights

Insights

Jan 27, 2026

BCLP Files Amicus Brief for NSL4A in Watson v. RNC

Insights

Sep 30, 2024

DOJ Updates Criteria for Review of Corporate Compliance Programs, Emphasizing AI Issues

Insights

Aug 06, 2024

DOJ Piles on the Incentives for Individuals to Blow the Whistle on Companies

News

Jul 08, 2022

Lawyer recognized as Adjunct Professor of the Year by Washington University School of Law

News

Jun 16, 2021

BCLP Recovers More Than \$1.2 Million for Client in Medicaid Audit Settlement

Awards

Dec 02, 2020

BCLP Attorneys Recognized by ‘Missouri Lawyers Weekly’ as Top White-Collar Defense Lawyers