Nicole M. Argentieri

PARTNER, LITIGATION

nargentieri@cravath.com

New York
+1-212-474-1870

Nicole M. Argentieri is a member of the Investigations and Regulatory Enforcement Practice. She most recently served in the Department of Justice (DOJ) as the Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division.

Known as a “titanic lawyer” who “has deep experience” and “really knows the DOJ,” Ms. Argentieri represents clients in their most challenging moments. (*Chambers USA*) She has built her career as a strategic advisor to multinational corporations, financial institutions, colleges and universities, and individuals, in connection with complex domestic and cross-border investigations and litigations concerning fraud, money laundering, sanctions evasion, ransomware intrusions and related disclosure requirements, bribery and corruption, application of Title IX and allegations of sexual misconduct. Praised by her clients as “fearless,” “tenacious” and “exceptionally smart,” Ms. Argentieri has successfully represented clients in investigations led by federal and state authorities, including Congressional inquiries and regulatory bodies. (*Chambers USA*) She has led sensitive internal investigations on behalf of boards, audit committees and senior management, and deftly provided practical recommendations on disclosure, compliance, remediation and public messaging to stakeholders.

Ms. Argentieri’s representative matters include:

- Representing a global financial services company in a regulatory inquiry by the Federal Reserve and the OCC into the adequacy of the company’s compliance program and potential trade-based money laundering activity;

- Representing a multinational financial services corporation in connection with an internal investigation into whistleblower allegations about potential money laundering;

- Representing a former senior executive of a public company in connection with an internal and Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) investigation of the company related to disclosure matters. She also represented the executive in related derivative litigation against the company and its officers and directors. The parties in that case reached a settlement; and

- Representing a public company in connection with a DOJ Civil Rights Division and U.S. Attorney’s Office investigation of potential violations of civil rights law. The company and DOJ entered into an out-of-court settlement agreement to resolve the matter. She continues to represent the company in connection with ongoing compliance and remediation under the agreement.

In her capacity as the Criminal Division’s Acting Assistant Attorney General and prior to that as Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Ms. Argentieri supervised over 1,400 prosecutors and staff members with respect to high-profile investigations and enforcement matters involving transnational and organized crime, cybersecurity, public corruption, money laundering, securities and healthcare fraud, violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and the Bank Secrecy Act, sanctions, intellectual property theft and other international affairs.

As one of the most senior leaders at the DOJ, Ms. Argentieri represented the United States in numerous meetings with foreign ministers of justice and attorneys general domestically and abroad, on topics including white collar crime, violent crime, human smuggling and narcotics trafficking. She has worked closely with foreign regulators to coordinate cross-border investigations and prosecutions, including with the Serious Fraud Office, the Financial Conduct Authority and the Parquet national financier.

Ms. Argentieri additionally coordinated the Criminal Division's work across the DOJ with U.S. Attorney's offices, the National Security Division, the Civil Division and other critical enforcement partners, such as the SEC, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the Department of Treasury, specifically the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network and the Office of Foreign Assets Control. She set the Criminal Division's priorities related to white collar crime, and developed and implemented its policies directed at strengthening corporate compliance culture, including programs related to whistleblowers, compensation clawbacks and self-disclosure.

Ms. Argentieri has deep practical knowledge of corporate best practices on anti-bribery and corruption and anti-money laundering programs, including emerging risks and opportunities presented by artificial intelligence, ephemeral messaging and other technology. She oversaw numerous high-profile corporate resolutions and represented the DOJ before Congress in both open and closed sessions. She also testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee about the DOJ's white collar criminal enforcement.

Prior to serving in the DOJ, Ms. Argentieri was a partner at a large international law firm, where she focused on corporate investigations involving fraud, bribery, kickbacks, accounting irregularities, whistleblower complaints, and culture, misconduct and bullying, including related to university sports programs.

Ms. Argentieri previously served for over a decade as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York, where she led and supervised complex investigations and tried several jury trials to verdict, and was most recently the Chief of the Public Integrity Section, among other leadership divisions. As Public Integrity Chief, Ms. Argentieri was the Eastern District's primary liaison with its anti-corruption law enforcement partners, including the DOJ, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the New York City Department of Investigation and the New York State Attorney General. For her service, Ms. Argentieri received the New York City Bar Association's Henry L. Stimson Award for outstanding prosecution.

Ms. Argentieri was born in Staten Island, New York. She received a B.A. in 1999 from Columbia University and a J.D. *cum laude* in 2002 from the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

EDUCATION

- J.D., 2002, University of Pennsylvania Law School
  cum laude
- B.A., 1999, Columbia College

ADMITTED IN

- New York

RANKINGS

Best Lawyers

- Criminal Defense: White-Collar (2027)

Lawdragon

- 500 Leading Global Litigators (2026)
- 500 Leading Lawyers in America (2026)
- 500 Leading Litigators in America (2027, 2026)
- 500 Leading Global Investigations Lawyers (2026)
- 500 Global Leaders in Crisis Management (2026, 2025)