



Investigations

With one of the UK's top investigations practices, Simmons & Simmons takes on some of the most prominent cases in the field.

Global Investigations Review 2017

"They are very responsive and attentive. As a team, the lawyers within the firm seem to work really well together; we feel like their team is part of our team. You feel like they understand you and your company."

Chambers UK 2018

Fields significant strength in anti-money laundering investigations, as well as a capability in cross-border proceedings complemented by a notable presence across EMEA.

Chambers UK 2018

Core strengths

Our market-leading Investigations Group provides a comprehensive service to organisations that need to carry out internal investigations or that need support in handling investigations including any subsequent action by external authorities. Investigations may be business critical and are often highly-pressured, cross-border and sensitive. The group has substantial experience in handling the wide range of legal, regulatory and strategic issues to which such investigations give rise. We have substantial resources across the network and strategic partnerships in jurisdictions where we do not have offices.

Our services

- It is critical that the **scope and structure** of the investigation is clear from the outset, with clear reporting lines and a clear purpose. Our experience means that we are able to help ensure investigations are structured so as to minimise the possibility that additional legal and reputational risk is created by the investigation process, and to ensure that investigations are conducted as efficiently as possible.
- **Document management** is key to an investigation. We advise on steps that can be taken to preserve documents, and to reduce the risk that damaging documents are created. The group includes leading experts on questions of legal professional privilege.
- We provide flexible support on **document review** exercises, using technology in a cost-effective way and partnering with clients or with third party providers as appropriate. We regularly advise on steps to ensure that the collation, movement and review of documents is carried out in a way that is compliant with data protection and other local laws.
- In the event that documents are required to be produced to authorities, we advise on compliance with and (where appropriate) challenges to court orders and notices. We are also experienced at dealing with cross border mutual legal assistance issues.
- We advise on and carry out **interviews of witnesses**, whether employees or third parties. If interviews are to be carried out by authorities, we provide advice on preparation for and the approach to such interviews.
- We have leading **employment law** experts who work with organisations to ensure that investigations are carried out in a way that takes account of local employment laws, and who advise on the interaction between the investigation and any consequential disciplinary action that may be required.
- We advise on and prepare **reports** regarding the outcome of investigations, being mindful of the different purposes for which the report may be required.
- Our team comprises experts across our international offices, and we have substantial experience of the complexities and challenges of handling **cross-border investigations** involving multiple agencies. We regularly work with other law firms, forensic accountants and contractors to provide the comprehensive international support that such cases often demand.
- We understand the **regulatory environment** in which our clients operate. Many of our team have spent time working for regulators, and we have substantial experience of advising on self-reporting to authorities and advising on strategy in handling regulatory investigations.
- We have a strong **corporate crime** capacity across our offices, covering 'sharp end' representation in the face of criminal investigations and prosecutions as well as compliance advice to avoid such problems arising.
- Our experience covers investigations triggered by a wide range of issues, including whistleblowing by employees, third party complaints, internal audit reviews and civil litigation intervention by authorities.
- We adopt a **flexible approach**, partnering as appropriate with clients and other advisers on different aspects of an investigation to ensure an efficient approach. We understand the need to manage tight timetables and cost limitations.

'Well-regarded' team has 'good strength in depth', combining expertise in investigations, litigation, crime and competition to advise across the full range of regulatory issues.

Legal 500 UK 2017

Tier 1, Regulatory Investigations and Corporate Crime

Legal 500 2017

Expertise in practice

We regularly advise clients across our four sectors. Recent experience includes:

Financial Institutions

- Acting for an investment bank in relation to a notice to produce information, served by the Serious Fraud Office following a request for mutual assistance by an overseas prosecutor. We successfully applied for judicial review of the request on the grounds that the requesting agency overseas had no authority to make the request.
- Handling a key investigation for a leading international bank, involving the FCA, SEC and Federal Reserve. This was highly sensitive work, involving significant reputational issues for the client, making it one of the highest priority items for the board.
- Internal fraud investigation of an international investment bank in Hong Kong and the UK: proceedings in the UK, obtaining freezing orders and search orders, tracing funds through several jurisdictions and advice on money laundering and enforcement.
- Acting for an international bank in a confidential investigation into parts of the bank's trading functions. The investigation spans a number of jurisdictions including the UK, Germany, certain African states, Singapore, Hong Kong and the U.S.
- Acting for an international financial institution on two regulatory investigations conducted by the Saudi Arabian Capital Markets Authority (CMA) on the conduct of previous transactions.
- Acting for a number of financial institutions on preparing responses to the Dubai Financial Services Authority (DFSA) prior to formal investigations being commenced.

Asset Management & Investment Funds

- Undertaking an investigation for an asset manager in relation to a series of investments made for clients by an individual portfolio manager. This was a highly sensitive matter and involved possible regulatory consequences and investor complaints

Life Sciences

- Advising a large pharmaceutical company in an investigation by the French competition administration concerning alleged improper payments made to healthcare professionals.
- Advising a French pharmaceutical company in relation to major product liability litigation, involving thousands of indemnity claims and over 3,000 claims announced before the criminal courts. This makes it one of the largest-scale product liability cases in French legal history.
- Advising a multinational company on pre-deal M&A due diligence and anti-bribery and money laundering issues.
- Advising a US-listed biotechnology company, in connection with extremely sensitive investigations, involving expatriate and local employees, with respect to allegations against the CEO, of bribery in connection with a government tender and sexual harassment of another executive on the leadership team as well as the general effectiveness of compliance programme in China.

Technology, Media & Telecommunications

- Representing a high profile individual involved in the investigation into telephone hacking by the press on issues of criminal law and in relation to the ensuing Leveson Inquiry.
- Advising on a major European Commission cartel investigation in relation to LCD's.
- Carrying out a large-scale compliance investigation, involving self-reporting to criminal authorities.

Key international contacts

Key contact biographies can be viewed at simmons-simmons.com

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