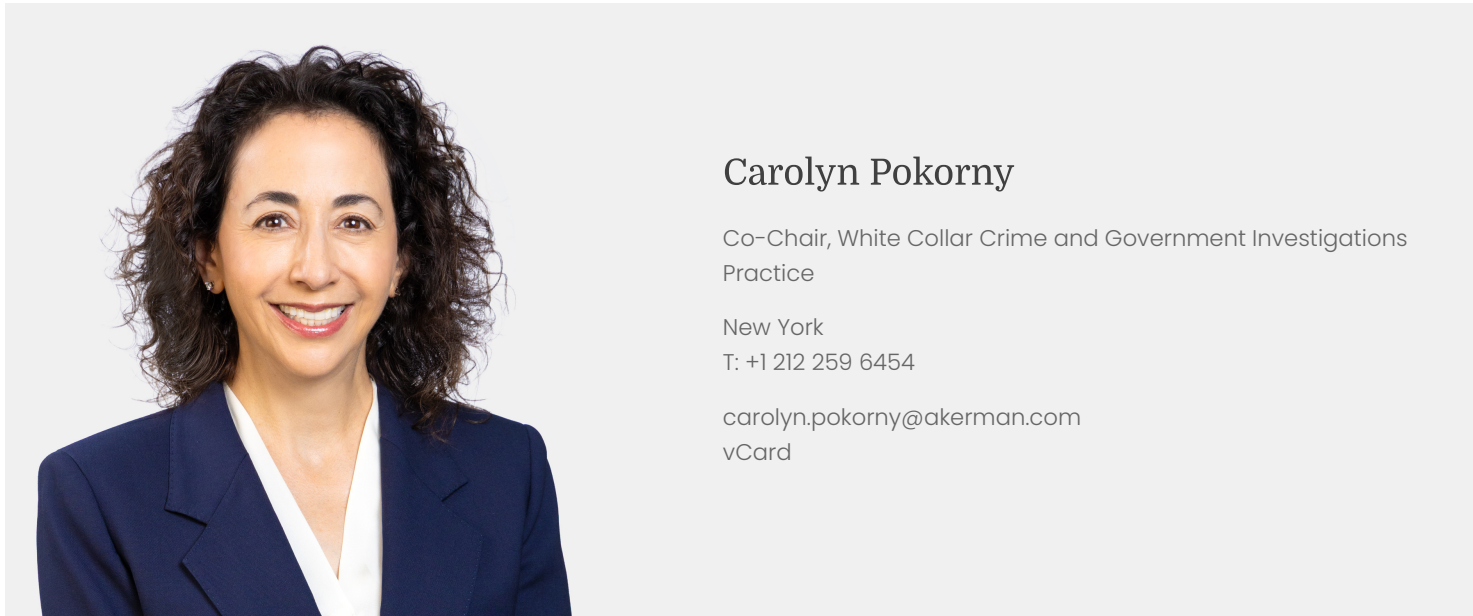


People



Carolyn Pokorny

Co-Chair, White Collar Crime and Government Investigations Practice

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Carolyn Pokorny is a partner and Co-Chair of Akerman’s White Collar Crime and Government Investigations Practice in New York. She represents companies, executives, and boards of directors in high-stakes, multi-jurisdictional government investigations, enforcement actions, and litigation; conducts internal investigations for corporations and boards; and serves as a trusted advisor to clients navigating sensitive crises, enforcement scrutiny, and reputational risk. Her practice spans internal and employment investigations, FCPA and anti-corruption, anti-money laundering, sanctions and export controls, national security, the False Claims Act, complex litigation, crisis management, and emerging issues involving sports integrity.

She brings more than two decades of service at the highest levels of federal and New York state government. As Acting U.S. Attorney and First Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, she led one of the largest and most important U.S. Attorney’s Offices in the country, overseeing investigations and litigation across the Criminal and Civil Divisions. She oversaw some of the country’s most significant corporate enforcement, fraud, national security, sanctions, cybercrime, and public-corruption matters. These matters included the Office’s prosecution of Lafarge — the first corporate guilty plea to material-support-for-terrorism charges — public corruption and corporate fraud prosecutions, and significant sanctions, export-control, and transnational-repression cases. Over more than two decades of senior government service, she has held senior leadership roles under multiple administrations of both parties.

During her earlier 14 years at the Office, she served as Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division, supervising more than 100 assistant U.S. attorneys; as founder and Chief of the International Narcotics and Money Laundering Section; as Chief of the General Crimes Section; and as Senior Litigation Counsel in the Public Integrity Section. She tried 11 jury cases — securing convictions in matters including the fraud prosecution of a former New York State Senate Majority Leader and securities and bank fraud trials — supervised federal

Areas of Experience

Litigation
 White Collar Crime and Government Investigations
 Economic Sanctions and Export Controls
 Government Agency Litigation
 Securities Litigation
 Commercial Disputes
 Data Privacy and Security
 Financial Institutions Commercial Litigation
 Directors and Officers (D&O) Liability
 Healthcare Litigation
 Appellate
 Information Governance

Education

J.D., Brooklyn Law School, 1994, *Brooklyn Law Review*, Associate Managing Editor; Moot Court Honor Society
 B.A., New York University, Political Science, 1991, cum laude

Admissions

Bars

New York

Courts

U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit
 U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York
 U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York

Related Content

Akerman Expands New York White Collar and Government Investigations Bench with Former Acting U.S. Attorney Carolyn Pokorny
 June 09, 2026

prosecutors in dozens more, and briefed and argued more than a dozen appeals before the Second Circuit.

As Inspector General of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the largest transportation agency in North America, she led the agency's independent watchdog office, overseeing investigations of waste, fraud, abuse, and serious safety failures and reviewing and strengthening how the agency investigates major safety events. She also provided independent oversight of the agency's federally required monitoring of its \$4.8 billion in Superstorm Sandy recovery projects — performed in-house rather than through third-party monitors.

As Special Counsel for Public Integrity in the New York Governor's Office, she led a statewide ethics, risk, and compliance program spanning more than 50 state agencies and authorities. She also advised the governor's office and state agencies on federal and state investigations.

As counsel and senior advisor to a U.S. Attorney General, she advised the attorney general and other senior Department leadership on the Department's most significant and sensitive litigation and enforcement matters, including the public and strategic dimensions of high-profile matters.

Carolyn writes and speaks frequently on white collar enforcement and emerging issues in sports integrity. Earlier in her career, she was a partner at a litigation boutique, where she represented companies and individuals — including a public official and corporate executives — in federal, state, and internal investigations. She was an Adjunct Associate Professor of Clinical Law at Brooklyn Law School and a law clerk to the late U.S. District Judge Arthur D. Spatt.

Related Professional Experience

- U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of New York, 1999–2014 and 2022–2025, including senior leadership service as Acting U.S. Attorney, First Assistant U.S. Attorney, and Counsel to the U.S. Attorney
- Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), Inspector General, 2019–2021
- New York State Executive Chamber, Special Counsel for Public Integrity, Office of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, 2017–2019
- U.S. Department of Justice, Acting Chief of Staff, Deputy Chief of Staff, and Counsel to Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch, 2015–2017
- Levine Lee LLP, Partner, 2014–2015
- Brooklyn Law School, Adjunct Associate Professor of Clinical Law, 2002–2014
- Law Clerk to the late Honorable Arthur D. Spatt, U.S. District Judge, Eastern District of New York, 1997–1999
- The Bronx District Attorney's Office, Assistant District Attorney, Appeals Bureau, 1994–1997

Published Work and Lectures

- New York City Bar Association White Collar Crime Conference, Speaker, "Sports, Prediction Markets & White Collar Enforcement," May 2026
- Eventus Forward NYC, Speaker, "Enforcement and Market Integrity on Prediction Markets," April 2026

- *MarketWatch*, Co-Author, “Opinion: Betting scandals leave pro sports just one way to save the \$165 billion gaming market.” March 18, 2026
- *Bloomberg Law*, Co-Author, “Independent Oversight Is Best Fix for Sports Gambling Problem.” December 12, 2025
- New York City Bar Association Fourth Annual Compliance Conference, Speaker, Fireside Chat on Current White Collar Enforcement Trends, October 2025
- Federal Bar Council Fall Retreat, Speaker, “The Federal White Collar Enforcement Landscape,” October 2025

Affiliations

- Federal Bar Council, Board Member; Federal Criminal Practice Committee, Co-Chair
- Federal Drug Agents Foundation, Board Member

Honors and Distinctions

- New York State Bar Association Hon. Shira A. Scheindlin Award for Excellence in the Courtroom
- U.S. Attorney General’s Award for Distinguished Service
- Eastern District Association’s Charles Rose Award for Outstanding Service
- Federal Law Enforcement Foundation’s Prosecutor of the Year
- Federal Drug Agents Foundation’s True American Hero