



Investigations & White-Collar Crime

2021



PROFILED:

ELIZABETH ROBERTSON

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom (UK) LLP





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White-Collar Crime



ELIZABETH ROBERTSON

Partner

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom (UK) LLP

London, UK

T: +44 (0)20 7519 7115

E: elizabeth.robertson@skadden.com

PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY

For more than 25 years, **Elizabeth Robertson** has advised on multijurisdictional business crime and regulatory matters, playing a role in many of the most important criminal and regulatory investigations in the UK. Ms Robertson's decades of experience have given her significant understanding of the priorities of UK prosecuting authorities, including the Serious Fraud Office (SFO), the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), HMRC and the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA). She has particular experience in advising on corruption, money laundering, economic sanctions and criminal tax cases and is regularly asked by clients to assist with governance and compliance matters.

Skadden

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
& Affiliates

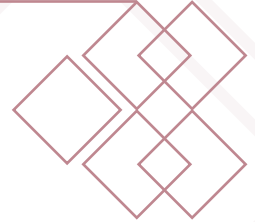
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Q&A WITH ELIZABETH ROBERTSON

**Are you active in any programmes or initiatives within your organisation?
To what extent have you found this work rewarding and fulfilling?**

◆ Supported by Skadden and as part of our commitment to diversity and inclusion, I am a member of the board of PRIME Commitment. PRIME is an alliance of law firms across the UK and Republic of Ireland committed to improving access to the legal profession through work experience. It is immensely rewarding to provide meaningful work experience, advice and support to young people that might not otherwise be able to access our profession. Similarly, as part of Skadden's pro bono practice, I am working on a number of matters that provide assistance to international refugees and other displaced people as a result of war or genocide. This work sits well alongside my legal practice and complements my personal ethos of trying to make a difference.

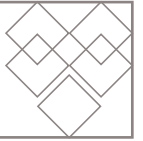
Looking back, have you fulfilled the ambitions and aspirations you set for yourself early in your career?

◆ I struggled initially to find a training contract and thought I would have to head home to a small village in the Sussex countryside. In the end, thanks to the mentorship and experience I gained as a paralegal, I went on to secure a training contract at the specialist white-collar firm Peters & Peters. I moved to the City of London 14 years later to start a fledgling white-collar crime practice at Addleshaw Goddard, a year before the financial crash. This was the second important step for me, forcing me to build my own personal brand and expand my practice to include financial regulation and sanctions work. Becoming a partner at Skadden five years ago was immensely exciting, allowing me to reinvent myself again as a cross-border, white-collar crime lawyer, as well as extend my corporate advisory and governance practice.

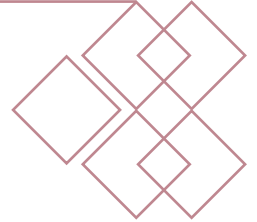


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Reflecting on your area of expertise, how do you see this sphere of the market shaping up over the coming months? Are any exciting trends or developments on the horizon?



◆ After a relatively quiet period for the primary UK and US regulators over the last few years, there will inevitably be renewed interest in enforcement from both sides of the Atlantic and across Europe for a number of different reasons, including the change of administration in the US and the fallout after the pandemic, primarily around corruption and procurement fraud. Sanctions will continue to be a very busy area with competing and sometimes clashing legal frameworks, driven by geopolitical and human rights issues. ■

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**REPRESENTATIVE ENGAGEMENTS**

- ◆ Representing Trinity Mirror in respect of matters related to the investigation by the Metropolitan Police Service into ‘phone hacking’ and bribery of public officials.
- ◆ Represented a broker to a multinational aerospace and defence corporation in connection with the joint criminal investigation by the SFO and the Parquet National Financier.
- ◆ Acting for former-Deutsche Bank trader Christian Bittar, who faced criminal charges from the SFO for the alleged manipulation of Euribor benchmark interest rates and the related FCA enforcement action. Successfully represented Bittar in the UK Upper Tribunal ([2015] UKUT 602(TCC)) in his challenge to the FCA’s Final Notice. The Tribunal held that the FCA had improperly identified Bittar in its Notice issued against Deutsche Bank and he was entitled to proceed with a challenge to the Notice as a prejudiced third party.
- ◆ Advising a former director of Rolls-Royce in connection with an SFO investigation.

