

# Alessio D. Evangelista

Skadden

Partner, Washington, D.C.

White Collar Defense and Investigations; Financial Institutions;  
Anti-Money Laundering and Economic Sanctions



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## Education

J.D., Syracuse University College of Law, 1995 (*summa cum laude*;  
Editor-in-Chief, *Syracuse Law Review*)  
B.A., SUNY Geneseo, 1991

## Bar Admissions

District of Columbia  
New York

## Experience

Law Clerk, Hon. Frederick J. Scullin, Jr.,  
U.S. District Court for the Northern  
District of New York (1995-97)

## Government Service

FinCEN - U.S. Department of the  
Treasury: Head of Enforcement and  
Compliance (2020-22)

U.S. Attorney's Office for the District  
of Columbia: Principal Assistant U.S.  
Attorney (2017-20)

U.S. Department of Justice: Deputy  
Chief, Bank Integrity Unit, Money  
Laundering and Asset Recovery Section  
(2016-17)

U.S. Attorney's Office for the District  
of Columbia: Assistant U.S. Attorney  
(2004-16)

Alessio Evangelista advises global financial institutions and multinational corporations on compliance and enforcement matters involving anti-money laundering, economic sanctions, export controls, anti-bribery and corruption and other corporate crimes. His clients range from international banks and investment management companies to multinational technology companies and industrial firms.

Mr. Evangelista draws on the extensive knowledge and experience he gained in various leadership roles at the Department of Justice and the Department of the Treasury to counsel clients in complex civil and criminal enforcement and compliance matters. Mr. Evangelista also has a strong understanding of the new technologies impacting the financial services industry, including artificial intelligence, blockchain-based digital assets, decentralized finance and Web3.

Prior to joining Skadden, Mr. Evangelista was head of the Enforcement and Compliance Division at the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), the bureau within the Department of the Treasury responsible for implementing and enforcing the Bank Secrecy Act and other anti-money laundering laws. In this role, Mr. Evangelista was the senior executive in charge of FinCEN's Enforcement, Compliance and Whistleblower offices. He oversaw and approved all civil enforcement investigations and public enforcement actions by the agency, including a \$390 million civil penalty against one of the largest banks in the United States for failing to implement and maintain an effective and reasonably designed anti-money laundering program, as well as a \$100 million civil penalty against one of the oldest and largest convertible virtual currency derivatives exchanges in the world for failing to implement and maintain effective and reasonably designed anti-money laundering and customer identification programs. During his time at FinCEN, Mr. Evangelista led the agency's efforts to implement several new authorities in the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2020, including enhanced financial incentives and employment protections for whistleblowers. He also created a new section within the Office of Enforcement focused on cryptocurrencies and other emerging technologies impacting the financial services industry.

Prior to joining FinCEN, Mr. Evangelista served as principal assistant U.S. attorney — the second in command of the office — in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, the largest U.S. attorney's office in the nation. In that role, he created a new Threat Finance Unit in the Office's National Security Section to focus on international money laundering and sanctions violations. He also oversaw numerous AML and sanctions investigations, including several groundbreaking cases involving cross-border money laundering, sanctions evasion and cryptocurrency-related crimes.

Prior to serving as the principal assistant U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia, Mr. Evangelista served as deputy chief of the Bank Integrity Unit in the Money Laundering and Asset Recovery Section at the Department of Justice. The Bank Integrity Unit handles some of the department's most significant cases involving the intersection of national security and financial crime. As deputy chief of the unit, Mr. Evangelista supervised over a dozen prosecutors who investigated and prosecuted financial institutions, and their officers and directors, for anti-money laundering violations and other financial crimes, including two cases involving global banks that each paid over \$1 billion in penalties to resolve international money laundering and sanctions investigations.

# Alessio D. Evangelista

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Mr. Evangelista also has significant trial experience. He tried more than 50 cases to verdict, including 19 jury trials, while serving as an assistant U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia.

Mr. Evangelista frequently speaks about regulatory developments and enforcement trends involving the Bank Secrecy Act, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and other laws impacting global financial institutions and multinational corporations. He has participated as a keynote speaker or panelist at national and international conferences such as the AMLP Forum for Anti-Financial Crime Professionals in London, the Institute of International Bankers, the ABA/ABA Financial Crimes Enforcement Conference and the ACAMS Annual AML & Anti-Financial Crime Conference, as well as at conferences sponsored by the Federal Bar Council of New York, the Practising Law Institute, cryptocurrency exchanges and blockchain analytics firms.

He was named one of Lawdragon's 500 Leading Global Litigators in 2023 and repeatedly as one of its 500 Leading Litigators in America.