

Partner, Paris

White Collar Defense and Investigations



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Education

Ph.D., University of Paris I – Pantheon-Sorbonne, 2012

M.A., HEC School of Management, 2010

M.A., Columbia University, 2009

M.B.L., University of Paris II – Pantheon Assas, 2008

J.D., University of Paris II – Pantheon Assas, 2007

Bar Admissions

Paris

Margot Sève works on cases involving complex cross-border compliance and enforcement matters. These representations include the resolution of proceedings involving French and U.S. regulatory agencies and prosecutors relating to corruption, economic sanctions, money laundering, terrorism financing, market manipulation, financial fraud and competition laws.

Ms. Sève also frequently advises clients on their compliance programs and risk assessments, as well as on matters relating to mergers and acquisitions, such as sanctions, corruption, money laundering and banking regulation due diligence. She also has counseled clients on compliance matters and conducted investigations in a variety of industries, such as financial and professional services, technology, media and telecommunications, manufacturing and natural resources.

Ms. Sève has extensive experience engaging with French and other local laws in the context of cross-border reviews (e.g., the French blocking statute and data protection, trade secret and employment laws).

Her experience includes advising, among others:

- Société Générale on investigations that led to settlements with various French and U.S. authorities concerning high-profile civil and criminal matters involving economic sanctions, corruption and market fraud
- a U.S. company and its French subsidiary in connection with a joint investigation by the EU Commission, U.S. Department of Justice and U.K. and Swiss authorities into alleged price fixing following dawn raids conducted by multiple authorities
- a European technology company in connection with an internal investigation concerning potential accounting fraud
- a French consumer-facing company in connection with an internal investigation concerning potential antitrust issues
- a French music streaming company in compliance matters
- a French technology company in connection with its anti-corruption risk mapping
- a French mining company with its Sapin II anti-corruption compliance program

Ms. Sève has been named one of *Lawdragon's* 500 Leading Global Litigators, in addition to being recognized by *Law.com International* as a Rising Star as one of Europe's "25 future female leaders in law" and by *The Legal 500*, in which clients noted her "very professional work and clear and pragmatic opinions and recommendations." Ms. Sève edits the "White Collar Crime and Compliance" chronicle in the *Revue Trimestrielle de Droit Financier* (*Corporate Finance and Capital Markets Law Review*) and is a published author. In particular, Ms. Sève has written dozens of articles on compliance, enforcement and financial regulation, as well as the book *La Régulation Financière Face à la Crise* ("Financial Regulation in the Face of the Crisis"). She holds a doctorate in financial regulation and received the HEC/Allen & Overy Prize for her work on regulation. Ms. Sève also teaches internal investigation and compliance matters at HEC, the Sorbonne University and Financia Business School.

Publications

“LIA et la compliance,” *Archives de philosophie du droit*, November 2025

“Droit bancaire et financier – Mélanges AEDBF France IX,” *La Revue Banque*, October 28, 2025

“New DOJ Criminal Policies: What Impact On French Companies?” *La Lettre des Juristes D’Affaires*, July 10, 2025

“AMLA, The EU’s New Anti-Money Laundering Arm,” *Décideurs*, July 7, 2025

“FCPA: ‘The New Guidelines Target Conduct Affecting American Interests,’” *ActuEL Magazine*, June 18, 2025

“The Evolution of the Regulatory and Criminal Enforcement Landscape Has Highlighted the Importance of a 360° Approach,” *Décideurs*, June 2025

“EU and UK Sanctions: New Sanctions Packages and Other Key Developments,” *Skadden Publication*, June 2, 2025

“New Anti-Corruption Task Force Bolsters Int’l Collaboration,” *Law360*, April 22, 2025

“UK, France and Switzerland Focus on Enforcement With New Anti-Corruption Taskforce,” *Skadden Publication*, March 24, 2025

“Latest EU Sanctions Extend Asset Freezes, Restrict Oil Industry Dealings and Target ‘Shadow Fleet,’” *Skadden Publication*, March 18, 2025

“Annual Report Highlights France’s Financial Crime Enforcement and International Cooperation,” *Skadden Publication*, February 20, 2025

“The Impact on French Law of the Harmonized EU Criminal Framework for Economic Sanctions Violations,” *La Lettre Des Juristes D’affaires*, January 13, 2025

“Attorney-Client Privilege: Resistance and Inconsistency From French Courts,” *LexisNexis – La Semaine Juridique*, December 12, 2024

“Fonds d’investissement & Compliance,” *NextStep Magazine*, November 18, 2024

“L’enquête interne, un test grandeur nature des process et de l’éthique d’une entreprise,” *Option Droit & Affaires*, October 16, 2024

“EU Updates Sanctions Best Practices, Clarifying Ownership Threshold for Asset Freeze Restrictions,” *Skadden Publication*, September 5, 2024

“EU’s 14th Sanctions Package: Compliance Obligations Expand and Exits Are Facilitated,” *Skadden Publication*, July 25, 2024

“Decoding AFA’s Guide: A Comparison of Sponsorship and Charitable Donations in France, the US and the UK,” *Skadden Publication*, May 13, 2024

“Protéger ses données face aux demandes des autorités étrangères,” *NextStep Magazine*, March 25, 2024

“EU Expands Restrictive Measures in 13th Russian Sanctions Package and Publishes Guidance,” *Skadden Publication*, March 11, 2024

“Loi de blocage: autorités et entreprises tirent un premier bilan de la réforme de 2022,” *La Lettre des Juristes D’Affaires*, January 8, 2024

“French Blocking Statute: SISSE, PNF, DOJ and French Ministry of Justice Representatives Draw Early Lessons From the 2022 Reform,” *Skadden Publication*, January 4, 2024

“Que va changer le projet de directive anticorruption pour les entreprises françaises ?” *Décideurs*, September 2023

“France Further Aligns Corporate Crime Guidance With US and UK Approaches to Sentencing and Leniency,” *Skadden Publication*, February 6, 2023

“L’impact de la réforme de la loi de blocage sur les enquêtes internationales,” *Décideurs*, August 2022

“De l’importance des ressources en matière de conformité chez les *fintechs*,” *Décideurs*, September 2021

“Compliance Risks in the M&A Context: Navigating French and US Guidelines and Jurisprudence,” *Revue Internationale de la compliance et de l’éthique des affaires*, February 2021

“Impact of Brexit on UK and EU Sanctions Frameworks,” *Skadden’s 2021 Insights*, January 26, 2021

“Requiem de jurisprudence en matière de transfert de responsabilité pénale dans le cadre d’opérations de fusion-absorption,” *Skadden Publication*, December 17, 2020

“Change in Case Law Regarding the Transfer of Criminal Liability Within the Context of Merger-Absorption Transactions,” *La Revue Trimestrielle de Droit Financier*, Winter 2020

“Les vérifications de conformité dans les opérations de M&A,” *Décideurs*, 2020

“Transatlantic Approach on Corporate Cooperation: How Newly Issued French and UK Guidance Compare to US Practices,” *La Revue Trimestrielle De Droit Financier*, 2019

“Dirigeants visés par une alerte : comment éviter que tout s’emballe ?” *Décideurs Collection Guide-Annuaire: Compliance et Investigations*, 2019

“Dix conseils pratiques pour réagir utilement à une alerte interne,” *Décideurs*, 2018

Speaking Engagements

Speaker, Lefebvre Dalloz conference on AI in Investigations and Compliance, May 20, 2025

Speaker, “LegalTech Night” on AI conference, Incubateur du Barreau du Paris, May 19, 2025

Panelist, “The Impact of U.S., U.K. and EU Export Controls and Trade Sanctions” panel, Association of Foreign Banks/Skadden Conference, April 29, 2025

Panelist, “Dirigeants face à la montée mondiale de la pénalisation des affaires : quels nouveaux enjeux, risques et stratégies de protection ou de défense ?” Global Anticorruption & Compliance Summit, April 10, 2025

Panelist, “AI Within Financial Services,” Financial Women’s Association 2025 International Business Conference, March 10, 2025

Speaker, “L’intelligence artificielle dans les enquêtes et la conformité,” AI in the City @ ENS Conference, AI Action Summit, February 11, 2025

Panelist, “Corruption in Commercial and Investment Treaty Disputes: From Grey to Black and White?” Paris Arbitration Week 2024, hosted by Skadden, March 19, 2024

“Lessons From the French Blocking Statute’s 2022 Reforms,” organised by Skadden, November 27, 2023

“The Regulatory and Enforcement Risks Associated With the EU Digital Services Acts,” organised by Ondorse, January 2023

“The French Blocking Statute,” organised by the Women’s White Collar Defense Association, July 2021

“Companies and Human Rights: New Obligations, New Tools and New Areas of Intervention,” Campus Avocats 2021, organised by the Paris Bar Association, July 8, 2021

“The Debt” webinar (panel on regulation of Fintech in France), Panthéon-Assas law school, June 18, 2021

“Défis déontologiques et écueils pratiques de l’avocat enquêteur : conflit d’intérêt, secret professionnel et indépendance” (The ethical and political challenges of lawyers as investigators: conflict of interest, professional secrecy and independence), Campus 2019, hosted by l’Ordre des avocats de Paris, July 3, 2019

Podcasts

“Antitrust Collusion in Labor Markets: Enforcement Trends on Both Sides of the Atlantic,” Skadden Podcast / Fierce Competition, August 6, 2025

“The International Anti-Corruption Prosecutorial Taskforce and the Future of Global Enforcement,” Skadden Podcast / An Ounce of Prevention, June 4, 2025