

Michael J. Vernick

Partner

Washington, D.C.

Biography

Mike Vernick heads the firm's Government Contracts practice group and leads the Education industry sector team, which provides a full spectrum of legal services to colleges and universities.

Mike has handled many of the most significant False Claims Act and qui tam cases involving federal research funds, several of which have involved potential exposure in excess of US\$1 billion. His False Claims Act experience extends into all aspects of U.S. government contracts, including among others, cost allowability, GSA contracting, and commercial item determinations.

He works with institutions on Uniform Guidance enforcement and compliance matters and other sponsor regulations and policies addressing the financial, administrative, and scientific management of grants and cooperative agreements. Mike has also advised many of the nation's leading institutions on conducting international sponsored projects.

He has handled bid protests before the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, suspension and debarment proceedings, and contract claims and disputes. Mike has worked with numerous clients on complex government cost accounting matters, including Cost Accounting Standards (CAS) audits and disputes,



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Practices

Government Contracts

Education

Administrative and Public Law

Investigations

Litigation

Privacy and Cybersecurity

Public Procurement

claims, and audits.

Prior to joining Hogan & Hartson (now Hogan Lovells), Mike clerked for the Honorable Christine Miller at the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. In law school, Mike was a member of the board of editors for the *George Mason Law Review*.

Representative experience

Successfully defended a leading university in a False Claims Act investigation involving multiple federal agencies and over US\$1bn of funding.

Obtained the first reported False Claims Act decision ruling that the Justice Department may not sue state universities.

Handled all cost accounting compliance aspects of a federal practice re-organization of a large government contractor.

Advised a Fortune 500 corporation on government contracts aspects of a restructuring of a US\$1bn federal practice into a corporate subsidiary.

Successfully defended a public health research center in a False Claims Act qui tam investigation involving US\$900m of HHS grant funding.

Assisted a major U.S. university with establishing global operations to facilitate sponsored projects, educational initiatives, and fundraising.

Persuaded the Justice Department to decline intervention in a qui tam suit filed against a public university alleging effort-reporting irregularities.

Successfully resolved a False Claims Act case involving GSA Schedule contract compliance.

Awards and rankings

- Government: Government Contracts, *Legal 500 US*, 2016-2017

Industries

Aerospace, Defense, and Government Services

Education

Life Sciences and Health Care

Areas of focus

Government Investigations

International Programs

Domestic & International Sponsored Research

Government Cost Accounting and CAS

Federal Grants, Cooperative Agreements, and Sponsored Research

Contract Requests for Equitable Adjustment, Claims, Disputes (REAs), Termination Settlements, and Appeals

Government Contracts-related False Claims Act, Qui Tam, and Other Misconduct Investigations

False Claims Act and Qui Tam

Education and admissions

Education

J.D., George Mason University School of Law, with high honors, 1997

B.A., Tufts University, cum laude, 1991

- BTI Client Service All-Star, *BTI Consulting Group*, 2016

Latest thinking and events

- Events
 - 2018 NACUA Annual Conference
- Events
 - China's Foreign NGO Law: The impact on U.S. universities and hospitals
- Hogan Lovells Publications
 - Tap Into Our Knowledge *Education Alert*
- Webinar
 - Navigating the ins and outs of research misconduct-related litigation and enforcement: Emerging trends and hot topics
- Hogan Lovells Publications
 - The District of Oregon Rules That the United States May Not Pursue False Claims Act Litigation Against State Entities *Education Alert*
- Hogan Lovells Publications
 - HHS Overhauls the Common Rule to Enhance Protection for Human Subjects in Research *Pharmaceutical and Biotechnology Alert*

Memberships

Member, Government Contracts and Litigation Sections, Bar Association of the District of Columbia

Member, National Association of College and University Attorneys

Bar admissions and qualifications

District of Columbia

Maryland

Court admissions

U.S. Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit

U.S. Court of Federal Claims
