



## Benjamin Gruenstein

PARTNER, LITIGATION

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Benjamin Gruenstein is a member of the Investigations and Regulatory Enforcement Practice. His practice focuses on the representation of U.S. and multinational companies and their senior executives in high-stakes government and internal corporate investigations in such areas as money laundering, healthcare fraud, trade sanctions, insider trading, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, securities and accounting fraud, and accompanying civil litigation.

Mr. Gruenstein regularly advises clients in connection with criminal and regulatory investigations, including those conducted by the Department of Justice, the Securities and Exchange Commission and other federal and state regulatory agencies. He also represents boards of directors and their committees on issues related to corporate governance and regulatory compliance and conducting independent investigations on behalf of boards and board

committees. He handles both domestic and cross-border investigations, including in Asia, Europe and Latin America.

Mr. Gruenstein also routinely represents clients in complex civil litigation matters, including general commercial disputes, securities litigation, mergers and acquisitions litigation, antitrust litigation and bankruptcy litigation.

Mr. Gruenstein maintains an active pro bono practice. He is a member of the Criminal Justice Act Panel, authorized to represent indigent defendants in cases before the Second Circuit and in the Southern District of New York.

Mr. Gruenstein is a member of the American Law Institute, the Supreme Court Historical Society Board of Trustees, and the International Bar Association, and a fellow of the American Bar Foundation and the International Academy of Financial Crime Litigators.

Mr. Gruenstein routinely writes and appears as a speaker at seminars and conferences with regard to regulatory enforcement, investigations and compliance matters. He recently co-authored an article entitled "Cybersecurity Liability for Web3 Platforms: Key Issues and Risk Mitigation Solutions," published by *Bloomberg Law* (September 2024); an article entitled "Four Administrative Law Cases This Term Signal Enhanced Opportunities to Challenge Federal Agency Actions," which was published in the *Yale Journal on Regulation's* "Notice & Comment" blog (August 2024); and a working paper entitled, "Secret Notes And Anonymous Coins: Examining FinCEN's 2019 Guidance On Money Transmitters In The Context Of The Tornado Cash Indictment," published by *The International Academy of Financial Crime Litigators* (September 2023). Mr. Gruenstein also authored the article "The Risks of 'Too Much' Entanglement with the Government When Conducting Internal Investigations" for the inaugural issue of the *Bulletin of The International Academy of Financial Crime Litigators* (June 2023).

*Benchmark Litigation* has recognized Mr. Gruenstein as a "National Star" in white-collar criminal defense and investigations, as well as a "Litigation Star" in New York. *The Best Lawyers in America* has also recognized him for his white-collar criminal defense work. He has been recognized by *The Legal 500 US* for his work in white-collar criminal defense, general commercial disputes, securities litigation and related regulatory enforcement matters, as well as for his experience in the media and entertainment industry. Mr. Gruenstein has been selected by *Lawdragon* as one of "500 Leading Lawyers in America," "500 Leading Litigators in America" and "500 Leading Global Litigators," and was named a nationwide "Legend." *Chambers USA* recognized him as a leading lawyer in White-Collar Crime & Government Investigations, with a client calling him "the most strategic lawyer I've ever worked with" and a peer describing him as having "impeccable judgment" and "total command of the facts of a case," and as being "outstanding with clients."

Together with his Cravath colleagues, Mr. Gruenstein earned the Firm a top-tier ranking for Criminal Defense: White-Collar in the *Best Lawyers* "Best Law Firms" survey.

Mr. Gruenstein was born in New York, New York. He received an A.B. *summa cum laude* in Philosophy and Mathematics from Harvard College in 1996, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and a J.D. *magna cum laude* from Harvard Law School in 1999, where he was an editor of the *Law Review*. After graduating from

law school, Mr. Gruenstein served as a law clerk to Hon. Stephen F. Williams of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and to Justice David H. Souter of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Prior to joining Cravath, Mr. Gruenstein served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Criminal Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York from 2002 to 2008.

Mr. Gruenstein joined Cravath in 2008 and was elected a partner in 2011.

## **EDUCATION**

- J.D., 1999, Harvard Law School  
*magna cum laude*
- A.B., 1996, Harvard College  
*Phi Beta Kappa, summa cum laude*

## **CLERKSHIPS**

- Hon. David H. Souter, U.S. Supreme Court
- Hon. Stephen F. Williams, U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit

## **ADMITTED IN**

- New York
- District of Columbia

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Bar Association

American Bar Foundation

- Fellow

American Law Institute

Bar Association of the District of Columbia

International Bar Association

New York City Bar Association

## **RANKINGS**

### *Benchmark Litigation*

- White Collar Crime Litigation Star - National (2025-2017)
- Litigation Star - New York (2025-2017)

### *Best Lawyers in America*

- Criminal Defense: White-Collar (2025-2016)

### *Chambers USA*

- White-Collar Crime & Government Investigations - New York (2024-2019)

### *Lawdragon*

- Legends of the 500 Leading Lawyers in America (2023)
- 500 Leading Global Litigators (2024)
- 500 Leading Lawyers in America (2025-2013)
- 500 Leading Litigators in America (2025, 2024, 2023)

### *The Legal 500 US*

- General Commercial (2020, 2019)
- Media and Entertainment (2018, 2017)
- Securities Litigation (2017, 2016, 2015)
- White-Collar Criminal Defense (2024-2016)