



Hannah M. Smith

Counsel

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Hannah Smith is a litigator in the areas of white collar criminal defense, business litigation, and real estate litigation.

Hannah defends clients, both corporate and individuals, in matters involving fraud, public corruption, tax matters, RICO, and housing violations in state and federal court. Her experience includes extensive trial practice – having litigated nearly 70 trials – and appellate work. She dedicates part of her practice to land use and zoning, seeking to secure approval for clients and engage in litigation related to these issues. Hannah also represents nonprofit organizations including educational institutions on a wide variety of general and criminal matters.

Hannah joined Tucker Ellis after spending six years in the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office as an assistant prosecuting attorney in the General Felony Division. She also gained experience arguing appellate issues at the Eighth District Court of Appeals.

While in law school, Hannah worked as an extern for the Civil Division of the United States Attorney's Office, preparing memoranda and motions on issues related to immigration, confidentiality, medical malpractice, and tax law. Previously, she served as a judicial extern for the Honorable Donald C. Nugent at the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, where she gained valuable insight while observing jury trials, pretrial hearings, and status conferences.

In any free time she can muster, Hannah enjoys attending and participating in sporting events and hiking around Cleveland. She is an avid moviegoer and educates herself with random trivia knowledge and crosswords.

Education

- Cleveland State University College of Law (J.D., cum laude, 2013); Civil Litigation and Dispute Resolution Concentration; Cleveland State Law Review, Articles Editor; Moot Court Team, Chair; Best Brief in Region, National Moot Court Competition (2012); Top Brief in Region, ABA Moot Court Competition (2012)
- Yale University (B.A., 2010)

State Admissions

- Ohio, 2013

Federal Admissions

- United States District Court, Northern District of Ohio
- United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio

Service Areas

- White Collar Criminal Defense & Corporate Investigations
- Business Litigation
- Real Estate

Experience

RECENT WHITE COLLAR AND BUSINESS LITIGATION EXPERIENCE

- Defends individuals and entities in investigations related to a wide variety of criminal offenses including, but not limited to, fraud, public corruption, energy law, campaign finance, ethics, and economic crimes
- Represents a senior executive in complex criminal and civil cases related to an alleged bribery
- Represents real estate and development companies in criminal investigations and prosecutions
- Conducts internal investigations of organizations that are targets of grand jury investigations, prosecutions, and under SEC scrutiny
- Represents real estate and development companies in various matters involving contract disputes, water rights, boards of zoning appeals, and land use
- Represents Cleveland-area educational institutions and charitable organizations advising the clients on a wide array of general and criminal matters
- Defends a Fortune 500 company involved in a complex and large-scale multidistrict litigation

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Defended a developer in a State RICO complaint alleging public corruption, theft, and tampering with records that resulted in a dismissal of 96 counts and the client receiving probation
- Represented an executive officer under criminal investigation for violations of immigration law related to a healthcare organization resulting in no prosecution
- Defended an individual against § 1983 claims, obtaining dismissal due to jurisdictional issues
- Defended a development company criminally charged for violations of numerous city ordinances and faced with millions of dollars in liens that resulted in dismissal of the charges
- Key member of the trial team representing a physician facing conspiracy and healthcare fraud charges in federal court
- Developed arguments in support of fair sentencing practices before a federal district court that resulted in rejections of enhancements or low-end sentences for crimes involving healthcare fraud, securities fraud, violations of the gambling statutes, and tax evasion
- Defended an individual against voter fraud allegations in the State of Ohio

Publications & Events

PUBLICATIONS

- “Using the Scientific Method in the Law: Examining State Interlocutory Appeals Procedures that Would Improve Uniformity, Efficiency, and Fairness in the Federal Appellate System,” 61 Clev. St. L. Rev. 259 (2013)

Honors

- Top 25 Under 35 Movers & Shakers, The Cleveland Professional 20/30 Club (2023)
- Outstanding Contributions by an Emerging Leader, Cuyahoga County Prosecutor’s Office (2016)

In the Community

- Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association
 - » Bar Admissions Committee (2021–present)
- Women’s White Collar Defense Association (2021–present)
- Irish-American Law Society (2015–present)
 - » Secretary (2019–present)
 - » Executive Board Member (2017–present)
- Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, Time Well Spent Honor Society
- Cleveland Council on World Affairs
 - » Young Professionals Advisory Committee
 - » Social Chair (2021–2023)
- The William K. Thomas American Inn of Court (2021–2023)