



Carmen M. Ortiz

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PARTNER

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Overview

As the former U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts, Carmen has extensive experience as a trial lawyer, investigator, and crisis manager. Higher education institutions, health care organizations, retail, major sports and entertainment organizations, and clients from many other industries all turn to Carmen for her experience dealing with high profile, highly sensitive, and complex matters such as:

- **Internal Investigations:** Carmen is known for her ability to manage high-profile situations under the media spotlight, to provide direction in crisis situations, and to facilitate decision-making among senior executives, in-house counsel, and board members. Some of Carmen's recent investigations include: independent investigation of allegations that a former chief financial officer at a corporation may have engaged in fraudulent wrongdoing in the failure to report a financial transaction in a filing for the Securities and Exchange Commission; independent investigation of allegations regarding potential ethics violations by superiors in law enforcement department; sexual harassment, gender discrimination and racial discrimination investigations for higher ed institutions; chair adjudicator for panel hearings pursuant to sexual misconduct and Title IX allegations; and defense of a major hospital in a wrongful termination lawsuit filed by a former employee alleging age, disability, and race discrimination.
- **White Collar Defense:** As the former U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts, Carmen knows exactly what information is important to law enforcement and prosecutors. Her experience encompasses all stages of the process, from conducting internal investigations, to responding to subpoenas, to knowing who is important to meet with at the government to persuade them not to pursue actions or charges, to handling complex jury trials in cases the government has indicted or otherwise filed. She also works with clients to develop plans to respond to white-collar and regulatory crises both inside and outside the courtroom. She is skilled at handling matters that require defending on multiple fronts against simultaneous criminal, civil, and regulatory proceedings. Many of her best results are never publicized because she resolves matters before they become widely visible.
- **Other Litigation:** During her tenure as the U.S. Attorney from 2009 to 2017, Carmen led an office of more than 200 attorneys and support staff in Boston, Worcester and Springfield. She oversaw the investigation and litigation of many significant and complex criminal and civil cases in matters involving financial and securities fraud, healthcare fraud, public corruption, money laundering, cybercrimes, national security, organized crime, and violent crime. Among other high-profile matters, she directed the prosecutions of Whitey Bulger and the Boston Marathon bomber. Carmen also had significant achievements in the healthcare fraud arena, leading the District of Massachusetts to some of the largest civil healthcare fraud settlements in U.S. history. Prior to becoming U.S. Attorney, Carmen honed her litigation skills as both a federal and state prosecutor, as well as a defense attorney, trying over 60 jury cases to verdict. She was an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Economic Crimes Unit of the U.S. Attorney's Office and also served for eight years as an Assistant District Attorney in Middlesex County, where she supervised the District Court

PRACTICE AREAS

Litigation
White Collar Defense &
Government Enforcement
Internal Investigations
Public Law

CREDENTIALS

Education

George Washington University Law School
Adelphi University, *Magna Cum Laude*

Admissions

Massachusetts
U.S. Court of Appeals, First Circuit
U.S. District Court, District of Massachusetts

Recognitions

2023: *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Administrative/Regulatory Law, 2020- 2023 and Criminal Defense: White-Collar, 2023
2022: *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Administrative/Regulatory Law, 2020- 2022 and Criminal Defense: White-Collar, 2022 and "Lawyer of the Year" for Administrative/Regulatory Law in Boston, 2022, Super Lawyers
2021: Awarded Honorary Juris Doctorate, Suffolk University Law School Commencement
2019: *Lelia J. Robinson Award*, Women's Bar Association; *SuperLawyers*; *Profiles in Diversity Journal*, Women Worth Watching List; Get Connected! - Greater

prosecutors, and prosecuted homicides, sexual assaults, and robberies.

Carmen served as Co-Chair of the Attorney General's Healthcare Fraud Working Group from 2010 through 2015. Carmen was also a member of the Attorney General's Advisory Committee from 2012 until 2014, and a member of the AGAC's subcommittees on Civil Rights, White Collar Crime, Terrorism and National Security and Cyber Crimes/Intellectual Property. She earned high marks for her ability to manage high-profile situations under the media spotlight, to provide leadership and direction in crisis situations, and to facilitate decision-making between law enforcement partners, political leaders and community representatives.

As U.S. Attorney, protecting the civil rights of the residents of Massachusetts was a top priority for Carmen, and she implemented the District's first Civil Rights Unit aimed at reinvigorating the enforcement of federal civil rights laws. She also broadened the Office's outreach and engagement efforts, meeting regularly with community groups on a variety of issues to promote public safety, community policing and civil rights. This experience has led her to conduct reviews of police department policies and practices, providing departments with skillful consultation to ensure their law enforcement operations are equitable and procedurally just.

Boston's 50 Most Influential Attorneys of Color

2017: Awarded Honorary Doctorate in Public Service, Plymouth State University Commencement

2016: Top Women of Law Honoree, Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly; Get Konnected 100 - Boston's 100 Most Influential People of Color; The Belva Ann Lockwood Award, Law Association of Women, George Washington University Law School

2014: Latina Lawyer of the Year, Hispanic National Bar Association; 100 Most Influential People for the Hispanic Community of Massachusetts, El Planeta Newspaper, 2011 – 2014

2013: New England Women's Leadership Award, Boys & Girls Club of Dorchester

2012: Bostonian of the Year, The Boston Globe; Latina of the Year, El Mundo Newspaper; Pinnacle Award Honoree, Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, Women's Network; Community Service Award, Mass. Association of Minority Law Enforcement Officers; Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree, New England Law | Boston and Adelphi University

2011: First One Award, uAspire; Outstanding Contributions to the Community, Beth Israel Deaconess; Las Primeras Award for Exemplary Achievement, Mass. Association of Hispanic Attorneys

2010: President's Award, Women in Federal Law Enforcement Foundation; J. William Fulbright Distinguished Public Service Award, George Washington University Law School; Pioneering Women of Color Award, Mass. Women's Bar Association; Lifetime Achievement Award, La Alianza Hispana