



Steven Pelak

Partner

975 F Street NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20004

P 202.654.6929

swpelak@hollandhart.com

Steve focuses his practice on civil and criminal enforcement proceedings and internal investigations.

PRACTICES

Export Control (ITAR/EAR) and Trade Sanctions (OFAC)
 Government Investigations and White Collar Defense
 Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and Anti-Corruption
 Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS)
 International Trade and Compliance
 Compliance Services
 Commercial Litigation
 Compliance Systems, Audits, and Disclosures
 Privacy and Information Security
 Customs Law/Import Control

EDUCATION

University of Michigan Law School, J.D., 1985
cum laude
 Kalamazoo College
 Economics
 Phi Beta Kappa
cum laude

BAR ADMISSIONS

District of Columbia

COURT ADMISSIONS

Superior Court of the District of Columbia
 U.S. Court of Appeals - District of Columbia
 United States District Court, District of Columbia
 District of Columbia Court of Appeals, Washington, D.C.

With more than 30 years of experience, he provides clients with sound counsel and advocacy on administrative and criminal inquiries, investigations, and prosecutions, as well as internal corporate compliance matters.

Steve has significant experience as a federal prosecutor and in private practice handling and supervising the investigation and prosecution of export control, sanctions, fraud, bribery, public corruption, immigration, labor union corruption, terrorism, and other white collar and violent crimes. He counsels and represents individuals and corporate clients in federal and state administrative and criminal inquiries, investigations, and enforcement actions. Steve's long and deep experience has been recognized by *Chambers Global* and *Chambers USA* rankings in Export Controls & Economic Sanctions.

Steve assists clients with internal corporate compliance and due diligence efforts with regard to export controls, sanctions, anti-corruption, anti-money laundering, national security, and other statutes and regulations, including the Arms Export Control Act/International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR); the Export Administration Regulations (EAR); the U.S. Treasury Department, Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) sanctions programs; the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA); the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS); the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA); and other federal regulatory schemes. In May 2018, the Assistant Secretary of Political-Military Affairs, U.S. Department of State, appointed Steve to serve as a member of the Defense Trade Advisory Group (DTAG) during the 2018-2020 term. DTAG advises the Department of State on its support for and regulation of defense trade to help ensure that the foreign policy and national security interests of the United States continue to be protected and advanced, while helping to reduce impediments to legitimate exports.

Prior to joining Holland & Hart in June 2013, Steve served as the U.S. Department of Justice's National Coordinator for Export Controls/Sanctions Enforcement from 2007 until 2013. During those years with the Justice Department, Steve also served as the Acting Chief and Principal Deputy Chief of the Counterespionage Section of the National Security Division.

In those roles, Steve directed a national program of federal prosecutors and investigators to enhance and increase the U.S. government's ability to

investigate and prosecute export control and sanctions violations. Leading the Justice Department's export controls/sanctions enforcement activities and public outreach efforts, Steve has a deep understanding of the U.S. government's policies and enforcement of national security trade laws and regulations, including the current and emerging policies and priorities of federal administrative and law enforcement agencies.

In addition, Steve served for 18 years as an Assistant United States Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia in a wide variety of capacities. He handled numerous federal investigations and prosecutions involving fraud, bribery, export control and embargo offenses, public corruption, labor union embezzlement and corruption, national security offenses, and overseas terrorist acts against U.S. citizens. He served as lead counsel on dozens of jury trials and appellate arguments before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, and the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

Steve's experience in export controls, sanctions, FCPA, national security, CFIUS, and public corruption matters allows his clients a unique and wide perspective on a range of important U.S. Government regulatory, investigative, and enforcement initiatives and actions.

CLIENT RESULTS

Representative Experience

Fritz, et al. v. Islamic Republic of Iran and Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, 320 F.Supp.3d 48 (D.D.C. 2018) – Civil action resulting in bench trial and final judgment against the Government of Iran and IRGC for the extrajudicial killings, torture, and hostage taking of four members of the U.S. Army in Iraq

Rescission and Removal of the September 2016 OFAC Designations of PacNet Services, 12 individuals, and more than 30 companies – Petition to the U.S. Department of Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) resulting in the rescission and removal of OFAC's designations of PacNet Services, subsidiary companies, and 12 individuals and an interpleader complaint filed against the U.S. Government and others

Defense Trade, Manufacturing, Engineering, and Technology Fortune 500/Public and Private Companies – Internal Investigations, Advice and Counsel, Representation before the U.S. Government, and Defense on matters involving the Arms Export Control Act/International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR), Export Administration Regulations (EAR), OFAC Sanctions, Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA), and related national security and government inquiries, investigations, and enforcement actions

U.S. v. ABN AMRO Bank – Investigation and prosecution of an international bank relating to OFAC sanctions violations

U.S. West, et al. – Investigation and prosecution of the President of the

International Association of Iron Workers and other union officials for embezzlement and related fraud offenses

In re Missile Technology Transfer to China – Investigation of export control violations arising from alleged transfer of missile or space launch vehicle technology by U.S. companies Space System/Loral and Hughes Space and Communications

U.S. v. United Technologies Corp. and Pratt & Whitney Canada Corp. – Supervision of the investigation and prosecution of the unlawful export of technical data to China relating to engine software for attack helicopters

U.S. v. ITT Corp. – Supervision of the investigation and prosecution of the unlawful export of technical data to China relating to night vision equipment

U.S. v. BAE Systems plc – Supervision of the investigation and prosecution of a multinational defense contractor arising from a conspiracy to make false statements regarding foreign payments in relation to the sale of defense articles required to be disclosed to the State Department under the AECA/ITAR and false statements about its Foreign Corrupt Practices Act compliance program

U.S. v. Brown, et. al. – Investigation and prosecution of 12 officers of the Metropolitan Police Department for bribery, public corruption, and conspiracy offenses

U.S. v. Garappolo and Massey – Investigation and prosecution of Certified Public Accountants/outside auditors of an ERISA fund and a union for participation in a scheme to cover up embezzlement and to file false financial reports

In re Ruby Ridge – Investigation and prosecution of obstruction of justice and criminal conduct by FBI Headquarters Officials

In re Embezzlement from the Public Defender Service – Investigation and Prosecution of the Chief Financial Officer of a local governmental agency

U.S. v. Stowe – Investigation and prosecution of an official of the Metropolitan Police Department for extortion, fraud, and theft

PUBLICATIONS

"[Export Control Laws Not a Blank Check to Exclude Job Applicants](#)," *Holland & Hart News Update*, Co-Author, 02/21/2019

"[Treasury Issues New CFIUS Interim Rules](#)," *Holland & Hart News Update*, Co-Author, 10/23/2018

"[Accelerating International Cooperation in Fraud, Corruption, and Other Government Investigations and Enforcement Actions in 2017](#)," *TerraLex Connections*, Co-Author, February 2018

"[DOJ Settlement Sets Forth Best Practices for Protecting Sensitive Data](#)

for Government Contractors and Information Technology Companies," *Holland & Hart News Update*, Co-Author, January 2018

"Podcast: Bringing Terrorism to Trial with Steven Pelak," *National Security Law Today Podcast from the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Law and National Security*, December 2017

"National Emergency Creep Threatens OFAC's Good Standing," *WorldECR*, Co-Author, November 2017

"U.S. Government Revokes the Sudanese Sanctions Regulations, But Restrictions and Risks Remain," *Holland & Hart News Update*, Co-Author, October 2017

"Accelerating International Cooperation in Fraud, Corruption, and Other Criminal Investigations and Enforcement Actions," *Holland & Hart News Update*, Co-Author, 09/12/2017

"Proposed Cybersecurity Legislation Offers Opportunities for Technology Companies," *Holland & Hart News Update*, Co-Author, 3/30/2017

"Lessons from Japan's Approach to Export Controls," *The Export Practitioner*, Co-Author, March 2016

"U.S. Department of Defense Seeks Industry Input on the Negotiation of a Reciprocal Defense Procurement Pact with Japan's Ministry of Defense," *Holland & Hart News Update*, Co-Author, January 2016

"A Look At The New US And EU Sanctions On Russia," *Law360*, Co-Author, September 15, 2014

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

"Trends and Best Practices in DDTC and BIS Voluntary Self-Disclosures," *Panelist, 2018 Fall International Trade Export Licensing & Compliance Conference, Society for International Affairs*, October 23, 2018

"ITAR Boot Camp - Enforcement Trends and Observations," *American Conference Institute*, Chicago, IL, June 7, 2018

"Tackling Corruption in the Global Arms Trade," *Center for International Policy*, Washington, DC, November 2, 2017

"OFAC Sanctions and Compliance," *Society for International Affairs – Spring 2016 National Conference*, Las Vegas, NV, April 2016

"Export Control Enforcement Actions – A Defense Perspective," *U.S. Department of Commerce/Bureau of Industry and Security's 2016 Special Agents' Training Conference*, Charlottesville, VA, March 2016

"Enforcement Panel: Understanding Enforcement Through a Case Study," *2015 Fall International Trade Export Licensing & Compliance Conference, The Society for International Affairs*, October 25, 2015

"Trading in Deceit: Defending Criminal Exports and Economic Sanctions

Allegations," *National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers' 5th Annual West Coast White Collar Conference*, June 2015

"How Best to Converse with the U.S. Government when Confronted by a Sanctions Violation," *Presenter, ACI Economic Sanctions and Compliance Forum*, Washington, D.C., April 29, 2015

"Export Controls for Transactional, Business, and Other Lawyers," *Panelist, American Bar Association, National Institute on International Regulation and Compliance: FCPA, Economic Sanctions, and Export Control*, Washington, DC, October 2014

"Back-Office Challenges and Real-World Solutions: Foreign Corrupt Practices Act," *2014 Geospatial & Engineering International Conference of MAPPs - the Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors*, Alexandria, VA, September 2014

"Export Control: What Role Does DHS Play?," *Panelist, American Bar Association, 9th Annual Homeland Security Law Institute*, Washington, DC, August 2014

MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

- Defense Trade Advisory Group (DTAG) of the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Directorate of Defense Trade Controls (2018-2020)

RECOGNITION

- *Chambers Global*, International Trade: Export Controls & Economic Sanctions, 2017-2019
- *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*, International Trade: Export Controls & Economic Sanctions, Nationwide, 2016-2019
- 2012 National Counterintelligence Executive's Award for Counterintelligence Investigations and Prosecutions for participation in an export control investigation and prosecution relating to China
- 2011 U.S. Department of Commerce Assistant Secretary's Award for Export Enforcement
- 2010 Attorney General's Award for the Advancement of the National Security relating to an Iranian sanctions prosecution involving the national security
- Executive Office of U.S. Attorneys Director's Award for Criminal Trial Litigation
- Numerous Special Achievement and Recognition Awards from the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia and Federal Law Enforcement Agencies

PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC AFFILIATIONS

- Thurgood Marshall American Inn of Court, Member (former)
- Former Member, U.S. Government Senior Executive Service

(2009-2013); Supervisor, Senior Litigation Counsel, and Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council Coordinator within the U.S. Attorney's Office

- Highlands Swim & Tennis Club, Board of Directors President (former)