

Adam J. Bookbinder

CO-HEAD OF GOVERNMENT ENFORCEMENT & COMPLIANCE

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Adam Bookbinder is Co-Head of Choate's Government Enforcement & Compliance Group and serves as Co-General Counsel of the firm. A former Assistant U.S. Attorney and seasoned trial lawyer, Adam has tried more than 25 jury trials to verdict. He helps clients navigate complex enterprise risks, including government investigations, litigation in federal and state courts, and cybersecurity and data privacy challenges.

In white collar defense and internal and government investigations, Adam represents institutional clients, charged defendants, potential criminal targets and witnesses in federal and state investigations and prosecutions around the country. He represents corporations and individuals in wire fraud, securities fraud, False Claims Act, money laundering, healthcare, theft of trade secret, computer network intrusion, and criminal tax prosecutions and investigations. He has also briefed and argued dozens of appeals in state and federal courts of appeal.

Adam advises clients on a wide range of cybersecurity and data privacy issues. He counsels clients on responding to cybersecurity incidents, conducting internal investigations and cybersecurity reviews, preparing incident response plans, complying with data privacy laws, interfacing with law enforcement agencies and increasing preparedness. He also defends clients in class action data privacy and data misuse litigation.

Adam served 18 years as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts. He was chief of the U.S. Attorney's Office's Cybercrime Unit, where he supervised a unit responsible for the investigation and prosecution of computer and intellectual property crime and worked with the FBI and Secret Service to identify and respond to priority cybercrime threats.

Adam also served in the office's Economic Crimes Unit, and he led financial fraud, securities fraud and healthcare fraud investigations, prosecutions and trials throughout his tenure in the office.

Focus Areas

- Finance and Restructuring
  - Independent Directors & Special Committees
- Litigation and Investigations
  - Business and Financial Litigation

Recognition

- *The Legal 500* "Boston Elite, Government Enforcement & Compliance – White Collar Crime" (2026)
- *Best Lawyers in America* (2021-2026)
- Boston Magazine Top Lawyer (2025-2026)
- "Go To Lawyer in Cybersecurity & Data Privacy" by *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly* (2022, 2024)
- Director's Award for Superior Performance, Executive Office of U.S. Attorneys
- *The Legal 500* (2021-2022)

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Representative Engagements

- Defend global pharmaceutical company in Department of Justice False Claims Act investigation.
- Defend healthcare system in Department of Justice False Claims act investigation and negotiate settlement and corporate integrity agreement.
- Represent global transportation company in response to U.S. Attorney's Office investigation into potential employee misconduct.
- Defend global software company in two civil theft of trade secret jury trials.
- Defense of major research hospitals in data privacy and data misuse class action suit.
- Defense of global laboratory services company in theft of trade secret, breach of contract and negligence suit.
- Represent global software company in response to federal and state government investigations and government legal process.
- Advise a series of clients on investigations and responses to cybersecurity incidents, including network intrusions, thefts of customer data, and attacks by international advanced persistent threat actors.
- Defense of financial services firm employee charged with fraud by Massachusetts U.S. Attorney's Office. Persuade government to dismiss charges and enter non-prosecution agreement with employee.
- Draft cybersecurity incident response plans for financial services and biotech companies.
- Defense of manager at global eCommerce company charged with conspiracy by U.S. Attorney's Office.
- Internal investigation and defense of Massachusetts company in environmental crime investigation by Massachusetts Attorney General's Office.
- Represent witnesses in investigations by U.S. Attorney's Offices around the country and the Massachusetts State Ethics Commission.
- Advise college and university clients on cybersecurity incident response and address risk stemming from foreign nation-state actors.

Publications and Presentations

- "Health Care Enforcement: DOJ's FCA Focus Areas," speaker, Boston Bar Association's White-Collar Crime Enforcement CLE, January 2026
- "International Cybercrime: What to be Alert for in 2025," moderator, BBA Privacy, Cybersecurity and Digital Law Conference, December 2024
- "A Conversation with Joshua Levy, Acting U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts," moderator, BBA White-Collar Crime Conference, May 2024
- "Bias and Ethics Issues for Tech Companies," moderator, BBA Privacy, Cybersecurity and Digital Law Conference, January 2024
- "You can go to jail for that? Cybersecurity, Data Breaches & Potential Personal Liability of In-House Counsel," panelist, New England Corporate Counsel Association's June Seminar, June 2023
- "Economic Crime and Cybercrime," panelist, Boston Bar Association White-Collar Crime Conference, May 2023
- "Managing AdTech Risk When Capturing Sensitive Information," co-host, Webinar presented by Choate & Secretariat, April 2023
- "You could go to jail for that? The Larger Impact of the Prosecution of Uber's Former Chief Security Officer," panelist, Boston Bar Association Cybersecurity & Data Privacy Conference, December 2022
- Panel on cybersecurity risks and law enforcement investigations, moderator, MIT Chief Digital Officer Program, November 2022
- "Industry and Government Responses to Increased Threats, including the Proposed SEC Reporting Obligations and DOJ Initiatives," panelist, Key Cybersecurity Developments Webinar, September 2022

- "SEC Cybersecurity Enforcement," moderator, Boston Bar Association Cybersecurity & Data Privacy Conference, December 2021
- "White Collar Crime," *guest* lecturer,New England Law School, November 2021
- "Cybersecurity lawyers: 'no good options' for victims of ransomware attacks," quoted, *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly*, May 2021
- "Data Privacy and Security for Attorneys and Law Firms" panelist, Social Law Library, March 2021
- "Interactive Cyber Incident Response Simulation," moderator, Boston Bar Association, December 2020
- "Ask the Experts – Ransomware Discussion," speaker, National Computer Forensics Institute (NCFI) Training, June 2020
- "Introduction to Privacy and Cybersecurity," speaker, Boston Bar Association, April 2020
- Boston Conference on Cyber Security, BC Woods College Cybersecurity Programs and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, March 2020
- "Emerging Issues in Cybercrime," speaker, Boston Bar Association White Collar Crime Conference, January 2020
- "Privacy Litigation," speaker, Boston Bar Association Privacy & Cybersecurity Conference, December 2019
- Privacy Law Class, guest lecturer, Boston College Law School, November 2019
- Cybersecurity Colloquium, lecturer, Northeastern University, October 2019
- "Hot Trends in DOJ and SEC Enforcement & Litigation 2019-'20," speaker, Sandpiper Partners, LLC, October 2019
- Cybersecurity Law & Policy Class, guest lecturer, Boston College Law School, October 2019
- "How New Consumer Privacy Laws like CCPA Will Change the Business of Online Lead Generation," speaker, LeadsCon Connect to Convert Conference, September 2019
- "2019 Cyber Threat Landscape," moderator, Boston Bar Privacy & Cybersecurity Conference: Managing Digital Risk, May 2019
- "Latin America Steps Up Data Privacy Legislative and Enforcement Efforts," author, *Global Data Review*, May 2019
- "Cybersecurity," panelist, Boston Bar Association Higher Education Legal Conference, March 2019
- Cybersecurity Law & Policy Class, guest lecturer, Boston College Cybersecurity Policy & Governance Program, January 2019

Professional & Community Involvement

- Former co-chair of the Boston Bar Association's Privacy, Cybersecurity and Digital Law Section Steering Committee
- Former co-chair of Boston Bar Association, Privacy & Cybersecurity Conference Advisory Committee
- Former member of U.S. Department of Justice Computer Hacking and Intellectual Property Working Group
- Former member of Boston Bar Association, Boston Bar Journal Board of Editors
- Former member of Boston Bar Association, Criminal Law Section Steering Committee

Education & Credentials

- Harvard Law School, JD, *cum laude*
- Dartmouth College, BA, *magna cum laude*, Government

Admissions

- Massachusetts

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

Clerkships

- Honorable Stephen Trott, U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit