

Alex Hontos

Partner

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Alex provides clients solutions in complex enforcement actions, internal investigations, government-contracting matters, and impact litigation.

Alex leads Dorsey's Government Contracting Practice and co-leads Dorsey's Higher Education and Academic Research Practice. He is a former United States Department of Justice Trial Attorney with a national practice in procurement law and government contracting, including the Federal Acquisition Regulations and the Contract Disputes Act; Federal civil-fraud provisions, including the False Claims Act and Anti-Kickback Act; and the specialized rules that govern claims against the United States, including bid protests. Alex assists clients in the areas of contract negotiation, compliance programs and internal investigations, contract performance, terminations and disputes, and litigation at the intersection of industry and the government. Alex represents some of the largest and most sophisticated healthcare, university/academic research, defense, and technology clients in the United States.

Alex has first-chaired dozens of litigated matters. His experience spans the entire litigation life-cycle, from devising litigation strategy, conducting discovery and internal investigations, briefing and arguing dispositive motions, negotiating settlements, and presenting effective advocacy at trial. He has argued dozens of appeals in the Federal appellate courts, and has drafted filings in the United States Supreme Court.

Alex maintains an active pro bono practice, including representing an indigent defendant facing Federal murder charges and veterans seeking benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs for service-connected disabilities. Alex has served as a prosecutor for the City of Minneapolis and a judicial clerk on appellate courts at the state and Federal levels.

Before joining Dorsey, Alex was a Trial Attorney at the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. Hired through the Attorney General's Honors Program, Alex

Education

- University of Minnesota Law School (J.D., 2007)
 - *magna cum laude*, Order of the Coif, Law Review
- St. Olaf College (B.A., Political Science & Ancient Studies, 2003)
 - *cum laude*, Departmental Distinction

Bar Admissions

- Minnesota

represented the United States in many matters, typically as lead counsel, including government-contracts disputes, fraud claims, bid protests, and other monetary claims against the government.

Alex is the co-founder and Editor of [FCA Now](#), Dorsey & Whitney's False Claims Act blog.

Select Experience

Public Procurement, Contracts, and Grants

- Represented medical-device manufacturer in successful bid protest challenging the Defense Department's award of a multi-million dollar supply contract.
- Represented managed care organization in multiple bid protests arising from state Medicaid procurements worth billions of dollars.
- Represented leading university in conjunction with challenges to terminations of sponsored research funding.
- Represented leading nuclear-remediation firm in Federal litigation related to DOE's Hanford Nuclear Site and related termination-for-convenience settlement process.

Court Admissions

- U.S. Supreme Court
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth and Federal Circuits
- U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota
- U.S. Court of Federal Claims
- U.S. Court of International Trade
- U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims

Professional Affiliations

- Member, National Association of College and University Attorneys (NACUA)
- Member, American Bar Ass'n Public Contracts Law Section
- Governor, Court of Federal Claims Bar Ass'n, 2016-2024
- Member, Lawyers' Committee on Hate Crimes and Islamophobia
- Policy Fellow, University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs, 2014-2015
- Executive Committee Member, National Seminar on Government Contracts, University of Minnesota
- Mentor, Twin Cities Diversity in Practice Program
- Government Contracts Editor, *Inside 717* (the Journal of the United States Court of Federal Claims Bar Association), 2016-2021

Clerkships

- Minnesota Court of Appeals, Hon. Bruce D. Willis, 2007–2008
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, Hon. Myron H. Bright, 2008–2009

Accolades

- *Minnesota Lawyer*, Legal 250, 2026

- Dorsey & Whitney – Scales of Justice Team Award (Veterans Rights Team), 2025
- *Minnesota Monthly*, "Top Lawyer in Minnesota," 2024
- Dorsey & Whitney – Scales of Justice Team Award (The World Ventilator Foundation), 2021
- MSBA, North Star Lawyer, 2014-2020

Select Presentations

- Co-Presenter, Preparing for and Handling Worst-Case Scenarios for In-House Counsel Seminar: "A New Relationship with the United States – Risk, Opportunity, and Interacting with the Second Trump Administration," Minnesota CLE (April 28, 2025)
- Panelist, The False Claims Act, National Seminar on Government Contracts (Sept. 18, 2019)
- Invited Faculty, Oklahoma State University Tribal Finance Program (May 24, 2019)
- Panelist, Nuts and Bolts of Internal Investigations, Dorsey Investigations Seminar (March 6, 2018)
- Presenter, "Perspectives on Bid Protests," Minnesota State Bar Ass'n (April 14, 2017)
- Presenter, "Beyond FAR Part 45: Government Property in the Courts and Agency Enforcement," National Property Management Ass'n Spring Seminar (May 4, 2016)
- Panelist, "It's Not Just About Getting the Project Built: the FCPA and the False Claims Act," Advanced Construction Law Bootcamp (April 12, 2016)
- Presenter, "Federal Assistance Funding: The 'Super Circular,' Compliance, and Enforcement Risks," Minnesota Nonprofit Law Conference (April 11, 2016)
- Panelist, "Introduction to Veterans Benefits Claims," Minnesota State Bar Ass'n (Sept. 30, 2015)
- Presenter, "Domestic Preference Laws: Buy America, Buy American, and More," Minnesota State Bar Ass'n (May 8, 2015)

FCA Now

May 4, 2026

Is There FCA Risk in Your Public Data? DOJ Launches the "FOCUS" Initiative, Formalizing Engagement with Data Miner Relators

March 23, 2026

Ninth Circuit Permits 340B Program Enforcement Under the FCA

March 9, 2026

FCA Basics: Government Investigations and Self-Disclosure

February 25, 2026

DOJ Doubles Down on Antidiscrimination FCA Claims, Identifies Problematic Practices

February 17, 2026

FCA Basics: Liability Theories

February 4, 2026

FCA Basics: Statute of Limitations and Timing-Related Defenses

January 23, 2026

False Claims Act Recoveries Top \$6.8 Billion in Record FY 2025

December 22, 2025

FCA Basics: Qui Tam Lawsuits

December 17, 2025

The Eleventh Circuit Hears Oral Argument in Zafirov: The Case that Could Upend Qui Tam Litigation

December 9, 2025

Eleventh Circuit to Hear Argument on Article II Challenge to FCA Qui Tam Provisions in Zafirov

November 24, 2025

FCA Basics: Elements of a Claim

November 3, 2025

FCA Basics Series: Introduction to the False Claims Act

May 22, 2025

Department of Justice Launches “Civil Rights Fraud Initiative” to Target DEI Through False Claims Act

April 21, 2025

The Trump Administration’s Sweeping New Tariffs Heighten False Claims Act Risks for U.S. Importers

February 27, 2025

DOJ Intends to “Aggressively” Enforce the False Claims Act During Second Trump Administration

Insights

June 3, 2026

More Federal Funding Changes on Tap: OMB Proposes Uniform Guidance Overhaul

May 4, 2026

Is There FCA Risk in Your Public Data? DOJ Launches the “FOCUS” Initiative, Formalizing Engagement with Data Miner Relators

April 14, 2026

SBA Upends 8(a) Eligibility: What Alaska Program Participants Need to Know

March 30, 2026

New DEI-Focused Executive Order Implements Expansive Audit Authority and Imposes DEI Certification Obligations on All Federal Contractors, Subcontractors

March 23, 2026

What Federal Funding Recipients Should Know About President Trump’s “Task Force to Eliminate Fraud”

February 23, 2026

DOJ Doubles Down on Antidiscrimination FCA Claims, Identifies Problematic Practices

January 27, 2026

Trump Administration’s Anti-DEI Effort Comes for Section 8(a) Program—Small Businesses and Alaska Native Corporations May be the Next Targets of Significant Federal Change and Scrutiny

January 22, 2026

False Claims Act Settlements and Judgments Set New Record, Exceeding \$6.8 Billion in FY 2025

January 20, 2026

DOJ Sues Minnesota Over Affirmative Action, Certifies Case for Early SCOTUS Fight on Title VII Precedent

December 30, 2025

Justice Department Eliminates Disparate-Impact Liability Under Title VI

December 11, 2025

Small Business Administration Directs All 8(a) Program Participants to Produce “Financial Records” by January 5, 2026

November 25, 2025

Department of Education Announces Six New Interagency Partnerships Aimed at “Breaking Up the Federal Education Bureaucracy”

November 18, 2025

The Court of Federal Claims and the Trump Administration’s Contract and Grant Terminations: A Primer for Federal Grantees and Contractors

November, 6 2025

CMMC Phase 1 Begins November 10, Raising Complex Compliance and Enforcement Risks for Federal Defense Contractors

October 2, 2025

DOJ Creates New “Enforcement & Affirmative Litigation Branch” to Enforce “Federal Policies”