



JOY ODOM

Partner
Atlanta

E: joy.odom@bcplaw.com

T: [+1 404 572 6689](tel:+14045726689)

BIOGRAPHY

Joy Odom is a partner in the firm's White Collar & Investigations Team. She has a proven track record of successfully handling high-stakes white collar enforcement actions, criminal litigation, and complex commercial disputes.

Before joining the firm, Joy served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Middle District of Georgia, where she led the prosecution of high-profile federal cases involving fraud, violent offenses, and cyber crime—including complex conspiracies. During Joy's tenure, she secured more than 130 felony convictions and served as first chair in eight jury trials. Joy developed deep experience with state and federal investigative agencies.

Joy brings clarity, strategy, and efficiency to investigations and disputes. With keen emotional intelligence and extensive courtroom experience, she delivers charismatic advocacy that is both

compelling and accessible. In court, Joy’s poise and personality make her a standout. Where others may falter with challenging facts or an exacting bench, she is confident—delivering arguments with precision, composure, and an effortless command of the room.

Outside the courtroom, Joy navigates the human dynamics of litigation with clarity, good humor, and a steady hand. She understands that any investigation or dispute brings stress and expense that disrupts lives and businesses. She strives to alleviate this burden with a calm, focused approach that keeps cases on track and clients well-represented. She drives investigations and litigations decisively, maximizing efficiency without sacrificing depth. Her disciplined strategy ensures stronger preparation, clearer arguments, and better outcomes.

Joy’s approachable nature makes her a trusted advisor. Clients feel heard and protected as she guides them through even the most complex legal challenges.

Beyond her courtroom work, she served as a Computer Hacking/Intellectual Property (CHIP) Prosecutor and Criminal E-Litigation Coordinator, where she managed some of the most complex legal issues in the federal criminal space.

Before joining the Department of Justice, Joy was a partner at Selendy & Gay, where she advised prominent financial institutions and corporate clients on high-stakes securities, antitrust, and contractual disputes. She was part of the team that represented the Federal Housing Finance Agency, as conservator for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, recovering \$25 billion from the world’s largest banks over the sale of residential mortgage-backed securities, including as part of the trial team that obtained an \$800 million judgment from Nomura and the Royal Bank of Scotland. She has been actively involved in high-profile cases, including counseling public figures and corporate executives in preparation for deposition and trial testimony.

In addition to her practice at BCLP, Joy serves as adjunct faculty member at the Mercer University School of Law, where she teaches a practice-focused course on summary judgment.

Joy earned her J.D. from UCLA School of Law, where she served as president of the UCLA Law Moot Court Honors Program Executive Board and won Best Oralist and Best Brief in the UCLA Law Roscoe Pound Moot Court Tournament.

ADMISSIONS

- Georgia, 2021
- Virginia, 2012

EDUCATION

- University of California-Los Angeles, J.D., 2012
- Georgia Southern University, B.S., summa cum laude, 2009

RELATED PRACTICE AREAS

- White Collar
- Business & Commercial Disputes
- Investigations
- Litigation & Dispute Resolution

EXPERIENCE

- *United States v. Barnwell, et al.*: Prosecuted 17 defendants in a fentanyl, heroin, and methamphetamine trafficking conspiracy, resulting in life sentences imposed on the two defendants who elected to go to trial.
- *United States v. Hill*: Prosecuted a criminal False Claims Act and wire fraud case against defendant, who had defrauded a government benefits program. Jury returned a guilty verdict.
- *United States v. Lambert*: Prosecuted three defendants for child abuse-related offenses committed on a military base, and secured a guilty verdict against all three, including the defendant who proceeded to trial.
- *United States v. Dotson*: Prosecuted defendant for committing Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan fraud, securing conviction and restitution order.
- *United States v. Merritt*: Prosecuted defendant for bank fraud, securing conviction and restitution order.
- *Ambac Financial Group*: Represented Ambac Financial Group in a precedent-setting action against Countrywide Financial (and its parent, Bank of America) to recover more than \$2 billion in damages stemming from residential mortgage-backed securities Countrywide fraudulently induced Ambac to insure through misleading and false representations.
- *McKinsey & Co.*: Represented McKinsey & Co., a worldwide management consulting firm, against claims by Jay Alix, founder of consulting firm AlixPartners, and Mar-Bow Partners, a company founded by Jay Alix, challenging McKinsey's Chapter 11 disclosures under Rule 2014.

- *Natixis 2007-HE2*: Represented plaintiff in a \$500 million breach-of-warranty action involving an issue of first impression, that a non-trustee could assert claims on behalf of a trust against the trust sponsor.
- *In re: Credit Default Swaps Antitrust Litigation*: Successfully represented investors including Salix Capital in a class action antitrust suit against 12 of the world's largest banks over credit default swaps, obtaining a \$1.86 billion settlement after investigations by the Department of Justice and the European Commission failed to yield any penalties.

Joy's pro bono work focuses on criminal justice issues, including representations for habeas petitioners seeking adjustments to their sentences or conditions of confinement. One of her clients, Jamere I. Hall, received an executive grant of clemency, reducing his term of imprisonment for a drug-related offense by more than 12 years. Joy has also authored numerous *amicus* briefs before the Supreme Court of the United States and the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals on issues ranging from ex-felons' voting rights to application of the Armed Career Criminal Act to offenders' prior convictions under state law.

RELATED INSIGHTS

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Apr 14, 2025

Former Federal Prosecutor Joins BCLP's White Collar Defense & Investigations Practice