

Christopher N. LaVigne

PARTNER | NEW YORK

+1 212 848 9882

christopher.lavigne@withersworldwide.com



Christopher is a partner in the litigation and arbitration team.

He is an experienced litigator with a proven track record of navigating individuals and companies through high-stakes legal and business issues. Chris regularly handles complex litigation before federal and state trial courts, appellate courts, and arbitral bodies, as well as investigations involving the U.S. Department of Justice, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and other regulatory and prosecutorial agencies.

He has represented companies and individuals in a variety of civil and commercial disputes, including securities class actions, contract disputes, and personal and business tort actions. He regularly represents and advises technology companies, including fintech and crypto companies. Chris has served as in-house counsel at a non-profit company, where he earned major court victories, negotiated multi-million dollar technology contracts, navigated and prevented litigation in thorny employee and HR situations, and advised on press strategy.

Chris represents entrepreneurs and individuals in the media and entertainment industries regarding personal and commercial disputes, and advises on the nuanced business issues faced by these individuals. He has represented company executives, boards, and individual board members facing or contemplating litigation and advised them regarding litigation risks of business decisions. He has also represented and advised law firms and lawyers facing professional liability lawsuits, fee disputes, sanctions hearings, and other matters.

Additionally, Chris has represented financial industry professionals – including corporate executives, investment bankers, traders, brokers, investment advisers, compliance officers and back-office personnel – accused of securities, commodities or banking violations in civil actions and in proceedings before the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the Office of Foreign Assets Control, the Federal Reserve Board, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Office of the Inspector General, the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, the New York Department of Financial Services, and other regulatory bodies. He has represented these professionals and other individuals facing criminal investigations and prosecutions brought by federal, state, and local law enforcement authorities in the United States and foreign venues.

SECRETARY **LAURA GOSHEFF**

+1 212 848 9822

Laura.Gosheff@withersworldwide.com

TRACK RECORD

Represented California based cryptocurrency company in litigation involving the client's former employee's disclosure of the physical address of the business's headquarters. In a precedent setting decision, the court ruled that the physical address associated with a business may qualify as a trade secret and a former employee could be liable under the Defend Trade Secrets Act for their public disclosure of the company's address.

Represented key figure in the Mueller investigation in connection with DOJ criminal proceedings and Congressional investigations, and secured complete dismissal of Democratic National Committee's lawsuit alleging that he conspired to hack DNC emails regarding the 2016 US presidential election.

Convinced U.S. Attorney's Office to drop federal charges carrying a mandatory minimum sentence against client. Secured 5-year probationary sentence for the same client who faced 8-10 years imprisonment.

Represented leading health care professional from New York hospital facing health care fraud investigation by U.S. Attorney's Offices. Client was never charged with any wrongdoing.

Secured 6-month probationary sentence for client facing 12-15 years imprisonment for mob-related crimes.

Secured dismissal of former trading desk COO's breach of contract action against leading fintech company.

Secured no-action letters from the SEC for several corporate managers and in-house counsel who faced simultaneous internal and federal criminal investigations into fraudulent financial transactions.

Won motion to compel against Glassdoor, Inc., forcing Glassdoor to turn over identification information regarding anonymous individuals that posted reviews in violation of non-disparagement and confidentiality provisions in severance agreement.

Secured first ever unequivocal ruling holding that mobile phone carrier can be held liable for its complicity in allowing customers' mobile accounts to be SIM swapped.

Defeated injunction sought against major charter school network for alleged due process violations that would have drastically changed how NY charter schools operate.

ADMISSIONS

- State of New York, 2010
- Southern District of New York, 2010
- Eastern District of New York, 2017
- Second Circuit Court of Appeals, 2019

PUBLICATIONS

'Finding calm in the storm: dealing with a professional crisis can be life changing.' Withers Insight - January 13, 2022, co-author

'Interest-Earning Crypto Crackdown Is Bigger Than Coinbase.' Law360 - September 24, 2021, quoted

'With Approach to Coinbase, SEC Shows its Hand on Cryptocurrency.' Compliance Week - September 21, 2021, quoted

'Coinbase Probe Shows SEC Game To Play Hardball On Crypto.' Law360 - September 10, 2021, quoted

'A digital art gold rush? – the regulators are watching.' Withers Insight - April 1, 2021, co-author

'Withers talks: cryptocurrency | Ep 2 - What is the future of crypto regulation?' Withers podcast - March 19, 2021, speaker

'XRP delisted on more platforms following SEC's Ripple complaint.' Business Insider - December 31, 2020, quoted

'Cryptocurrencies: What Type Of Gamble Are They?' WealthBriefing - October 30, 2020, co-author

MEMBERSHIPS

- Federal Bar Council
- Young Lawyers Committee of the New York Courts' Historical Society
- Board Member, Fordham Law Alumni Association

FEDERAL CLERKSHIP

Law Clerk, Honorable Vincent L. Briccetti, United States District Court for the Southern District of New York

EDUCATION

Fordham University School of Law, JD
SUNY Geneseo, B.A. Political Science and Government

LANGUAGES

ENGLISH

DATES

JOINED: 2020

RECOGNITION

2020 Super Lawyers US Rising Star Christopher LaVigne

New York

430 PARK AVENUE, 10TH FLOOR, NY 10022-3505