

MATTHEW ORSO

Nominated to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of North Carolina, Matthew Emile Orso is a partner at [Troutman Pepper Locke](#) and has spent his corporate career focused on helping large banks, corporations, and individuals field government investigations when they have been accused of serious misconduct and fraud by regulatory agencies such as the Department of Justice, Securities & Exchange Commission, Internal Revenue Service, and state attorneys general.

DEFENDING FINANCIAL MISCONDUCT & CONSUMER EXPLOITATION

Orso repeatedly defended financial institutions accused of exploiting vulnerable consumers and engaging in fraudulent schemes. He represented a national bank being investigated by the Nebraska attorney general for financially exploiting an elderly customer, and defended institutions implicated in Ponzi and pyramid schemes that funneled money through shell corporations and falsified documents. He has also represented banks facing scrutiny for failures to comply with anti-money laundering laws.

These cases reflect a legal practice devoted to shielding powerful financial actors from accountability, often at the expense of everyday people hurt and scammed by unfair, deceptive, and abusive practices.

EVADING SECURITIES & MARKET ACCOUNTABILITY

Orso has repeatedly defended powerful financial institutions against accountability in cases of fraud, deception, and systemic misconduct. He represented a bank under SEC investigation for misrepresentations in public filings, a broker-dealer accused of fraudulent practices and breaching fiduciary duties to customers, and a national bank facing a multiyear investigation by the DOJ, SEC, and 50 state attorneys general for their abusive and widespread sales tactics. His record demonstrates a consistent pattern of undermining transparency, weakening investor protections, and protecting corporate misconduct — leaving ordinary people exposed to corporate exploitation and financial predation.

PROTECTING CORRUPTION & PRESERVING CORPORATE POWER

Orso has also defended public officials accused of corruption. He represented a sitting Congressman under investigation by the DOJ's Public Integrity Section, the House Ethics Committee, and the U.S. Attorney's Office, and represented a former public official in *United States v. Scales*, a corruption and fraud case. By protecting politicians facing serious ethics and corruption charges, Orso used his legal practice to insulate those who abuse public office, undermining the public's faith in their elected officials, and hurting their ability to hold elected officials accountable when they break the law.

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FRAUD IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

Orso defended a government contractor in *U.S. v. Boggs Paving, Inc.*, a case involving fraud and abuse of the Department of Transportation's disadvantaged business program (a type of program designed to help socially and economically disadvantaged individuals). Orso's clients took advantage of the program and pleaded guilty to wire fraud and related charges. His continued representation of these types of clients who abuse taxpayer-funded programs further harms prospects for legitimate initiatives designed to level the playing field — turning protections meant for ordinary people into tools that benefit the powerful corporations he has spent his career shielding.

COMBATting CIVIL RIGHTS & EMPLOYMENT PROTECTIONS

Orso's defense work also sought to protect civil rights and workplace discrimination violations. In *Williams v. Carolina Healthcare Sys.*, he represented a corporate defendant accused of racially discriminatory promotion practices. His consistent representation of clients that seek to dismiss and minimize racial discrimination claims reveals a troubling perspective that disregards racial justice, workers' rights, and a workplace free from racial discrimination.