

Professional Biography



ALEXANDER O. CANIZARES | SENIOR COUNSEL

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Alexander Canizares represents government contractors and other companies in litigation, investigations, and regulatory matters involving federal departments and agencies. As a former trial attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) Civil Division, Alex draws on his experience serving as lead counsel in complex cases involving the federal government to advise companies in the aerospace and defense, technology, healthcare, professional services, and other industries in a range of areas, including contract claims and disputes, False Claims Act matters, bid protests, and strategic counseling. Alex is also a member of the firm's multidisciplinary COVID-19 Task Force and has counseled clients on the Paycheck Protection Program.

Alex's practice includes representing clients ranging from early-stage companies to publicly traded *Fortune* 100 corporations in litigation, internal and government investigations, administration and compliance issues arising under government contracts, mandatory or voluntary disclosures, prime-subcontractor disputes, data rights, cybersecurity, small business matters, suspension or debarment proceedings, and government contracts diligence in M&A activities.

While at DOJ Civil Division's Commercial Litigation Branch, National Courts Section, Alex handled dozens of cases at both the trial and appellate levels involving multiple defense and civilian agencies. He has first-chair experience litigating cases in areas that include the Contract Disputes Act, the False Claims Act and civil fraud claims, and bid protests challenging agency procurements involving defense, national security, and information technology. Alex has significant appellate experience and presented oral arguments before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit 13 times.

Alex writes and speaks frequently on government contracts matters and is an adjunct professor of Performance of Government Contracts at The George Washington University Law School. He is also a co-chair of the American Bar Association's Public Contract Law Section's (PCLS) Contract Claims and Disputes Resolution Committee. Alex also serves as a vice chair of the Federal Circuit Bar Association's Government Contracts Committee and as a co-chair of the Steering Committee of the D.C. Bar Association's Government Contracts Community. He is also a member of the editorial board of the ABA PCLS *Procurement Lawyer* publication.

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

LITIGATION, INVESTIGATIONS, AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- Represent Silver State in breach of contract action against the United States. (*Silver State Land LLC v. United States*, Court of Federal Claims No. 19-688)

- Defended KBR, Inc. in parallel bid protests arising out of the Army's Logistics Civil Augmentation Program (LOGCAP) V before the GAO and U.S. Court of Federal Claims. (Matter of DynCorp International, LLC, B-417506.10, *DynCorp International, LLC v. United States*, Case No. 19-1133C, et al.)
- Represent a defense contractor in an internal investigation regarding False Claims Act issues.
- Represented a healthcare device manufacturer in a government False Claims Act investigation.
- Represent a company in breach of contract dispute before the U.S. Court of Federal Claims.
- Represent a company in a bid protest defense before the General Accountability Office with respect to a Naval Air Warfare Center contract for cyber warfighting support services.
- Advise aerospace/defense contractor regarding False Claims Act matters and related contract and disclosure obligations.
- Represented the United States in a law suit concerning alleged breaches of a trademark licensing agreement.*
- First-chaired a five-day trial involving False Claims Act and other fraud-related claims in a case arising out of prime and subcontractor pass-through claims alleging delays and breaches of contract concerning a construction project.*
- First-chaired a seven-day trial in a consolidated action brought by federal employees seeking overtime pay.*
- Successfully defended the Navy's \$160 million contract to modify and operate a vessel to be used by the U.S. Special Operations Command to support national security missions in a bid protest concerning cost realism analysis and adequacy of corrective action.*
- Lead counsel on behalf of the United States in a bid protest reviewing agency's corrective action and justification for a \$3.6 million sole-source bridge contract award to obtain information technology services.*
- Successfully defended the United States before the U.S. Court of Federal Claims and U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in a post-award bid protest contesting a Navy commercial-item contract for moving and storage services for personnel at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.*
- Successfully represented the United States in a software company's protest challenging an agency's procurement.*
- Defended the United States in a post-award bid protest against the award of a firm, fixed-price, indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity contract to provide equipment for use in fire-fighting operations.*
- Successfully defended the United States against alleged breaches of contract in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims related to a government criminal investigation and prosecution.*
- Presented oral argument before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in appeal related to accounting of direct and indirect costs and other cost issues arising out of an agency's termination for convenience of a contract.*
- Delivered oral argument in appeal concerning award of attorney fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act.*
- Successfully defended the United States against class action law suit in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims brought by current and former Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) police officers.*
- Represented the United States in a law suit seeking damages related to health care services provided to veterans.*
- Represented the United States in a case alleging breaches of a lease agreement with the General Services Administration.*
- Represented the United States in cases before the U.S. Court of International Trade related to the administration of antidumping duty and countervailing duty statutes and regulations by the U.S. Department of Commerce.*
- Represented companies in civil litigation and international arbitration as well as investigation and regulatory compliance matters involving pharmaceutical, mining, oil and gas, media, and other industries.*

*Prior Experience

REGULATORY AND CONTRACT COUNSELING

- Represent companies in connection with eligibility issues in relation to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.
- Advise a company with respect to suspension and debarment matters.
- Represent a quantum computing company with respect to government contracts and Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States matters in connection with an investment transaction.

TRANSACTIONAL MATTERS

- Represent a *Fortune* 100 company in acquisition diligence of government contracts.
- Conduct diligence on government contracts matters related to a potential transaction involving a defense contractor.

BAR ADMISSIONS

- District of Columbia
- New York

COURT ADMISSIONS

- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Federal Claims
- U.S. Court of International Trade

EDUCATION

- The George Washington University Law School, J.D., with high honors, 2006
- University of Wisconsin, B.A., Political Science, with honors, 1999

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

- Federal Bar Association, *Qui Tam* Section, Member
- *The Procurement Lawyer* (ABA Public Contract Law Section), Associate Editor
- Federal Circuit Bar Association, Vice Chair, Government Contracts Committee
- American Bar Association, Public Contract Law Section
 - Contracts Claims & Disputes Resolution Committee, Co-Chair
 - Bid Protest Committee, Member
 - Procurement Fraud & False Claims Committee, Member
 - Cybersecurity, Privacy, and Data Protection Committee, Member
- Court of Federal Claims Bar Association, Contributing Editor of *Inside 717* publication, 2017 – 2019
- D.C. Bar Association Government Contracts Community, Steering Committee Co-Chair

RELATED EMPLOYMENT

- The George Washington University Law School, Performance of Government Contracts, Adjunct Professor
- U.S. Department of Justice – Civil Division, Commercial Litigation Branch, National Courts Section, 2013 – 2019
- Covington & Burling LLP, 2007 – 2013
- Bloomberg News LLP, 2000 – 2003

CLERKSHIPS

- Hon. Robert Doumar, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, 2006 - 2007