

RISING STARS



**Benjamin
Naftalis**
Partner
Latham & Watkins

AS A MEMBER of Latham & Watkins' white-collar defense and investigations practice and financial institutions industry group, Ben Naftalis handles internal corporate investigations, civil litigation, cybersecurity matters, and other sensitive situations that occur within the U.S. and the international community.

Ben has negotiated a settlement for Pacira Pharmaceuticals in a First Amendment action brought against the U.S. Department of Justice and the Food and Drug Administration. The case centered on the FDA's accusation in a warning letter that Pacira allegedly mismarked its drug for off-label uses. The FDA ultimately rescinded its letter and conceded that Pacira had marketed the drug in accordance with its appropriate FDA label.

He currently represents the principal investors in DraftKings, in connection with a probe by the New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman and other regulators.

While serving in the Southern District U.S. Attorney's Office, Ben tried eight federal jury trials and briefed and argued more than 10 appeals before

the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. His work on the Securities and Commodities Task Force included the prosecution of Alberto Vilar and Gary Tanaka for securities and investment adviser fraud in connection with the \$8 billion Amerindo hedge fund. Ben also briefed and argued the appeal after which Vilar and Tanaka received increased sentences.

He investigated and prosecuted Paul Greenwood, founder and president of WG Trading LP and former co-owner of the New York Islanders, for his role in a \$554 million investment fraud scheme.

For his work, Ben received the attorney general's award for distinguished service, which is the Department of Justice's second-highest honor, and he is a two-time recipient of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force regional award.

EXPERIENCE

- Latham & Watkins, partner, 2015-present
- Southern District U.S. Attorney's Office, assistant U.S. attorney, securities and commodities task force, 2013-2015.; terrorism and international narcotics unit 2008-2013; narcotics unit 2007-2008; general crimes unit, 2006-2007
- Law clerk to Judge Dennis Jacobs, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, 2005-2006
- Law clerk to the Southern District Judge Jed Rakoff, 2004-2005

EDUCATION

- J.D., Columbia University School of Law, 2004
- A.B., Brown University, 1999