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SCOTT A. COFFINA is a partner at Pietragallo Gordon Alfano Bosick & Raspanti, LLP. He is a relentless problem solver, drawing upon his extensive experience in a wide range of high-level, high-leverage government and law firm positions and dedicating all his energy to guiding clients through whatever difficult challenges they face. Mr. Coffina practices in the areas of white collar criminal defense, internal investigations, False Claims Act matters, compliance, political-legal controversies, health care fraud, higher education, and general crisis management. He is a member of the Government Enforcement, Compliance, & White Collar Litigation, Qui Tam & False Claims Act, and Title IX Practice Groups.

Having previously served as an Assistant United States Attorney, senior deputy chief counsel to Governor Chris Christie, associate counsel to President George W. Bush, staff assistant to President Ronald Reagan, and most recently, as the County Prosecutor of Burlington County, New Jersey, Mr. Coffina brings a 360° approach to clients' situations, addressing legal implications, and potential collateral consequences, such as reputational harm and impact on the organizational culture. As the Burlington County Prosecutor, he oversaw investigations and prosecutions for all indictable offenses committed in the county, including:

- directing the investigation of members of a street gang responsible for murder and other violent crimes, as well as a Paycheck Protection Plan fraud scheme, and brought charges against them under New Jersey's racketeering statute.
- supervising the investigation and successful prosecution of three individuals responsible for a fraudulent GoFundMe fundraising scheme that garnered national attention based upon a fake "feel-good" story concocted by the three defendants.
- responding to a dramatic increase in fatal overdoses in Burlington County by resurrecting New Jersey's rarely used drug-induced-death statute to investigate and charge over thirty drug dealers with first-degree crimes to raise the consequences when their customers died from the drugs they sold them.
- directing the investigation and successful prosecution of a physician who allegedly was indiscriminately prescribing opioids to his patients.

Mr. Coffina was named Prosecutor of the Year in 2022 by the New Jersey Narcotics Enforcement Officers Association for his efforts in prioritizing drug-induced-death investigations, while also initiating several groundbreaking law enforcement initiated drug treatment intervention and diversion programs. He also served as president of the County Prosecutors Association of New Jersey. Mr. Coffina is recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2026 and 2027 editions for his work in White Collar Criminal Defense.

As an Assistant United States Attorney, Mr. Coffina led numerous investigations into alleged violations of the False Claims Act, tried several cases to verdict, and twice argued successfully before the Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

In private practice, he has led and/or conducted numerous internal investigations and defended individuals,

corporations and colleges and universities in a wide variety of high stakes matters, including:

- Defending a financial institution in a Department of Justice investigation into alleged redlining, negotiating a favorable resolution for the client.
- Developing a compliance program for a New Jersey nonprofit, peer-based recovery program providing interventions and navigation to resources for the treatment of substance use disorders (SUD).
- Conducting an extensive field investigation and defending a Fortune 50 pharmaceutical company in an off-label marketing prosecution by the Department of Justice.
- Conducting investigations on behalf of several major universities into allegations of sexual misconduct.
- Conducting an investigation into embezzlement by an employee of a university, resulting in full recovery of a $5.6 million theft spanning more than a decade and prosecution of the employee.
- Developing a "Claims Integrity Program," conducting an investigation to root out fraud, and pursuing fraud claims in federal court against two cardiologists on behalf of the Diet Drug Settlement Trust.

As Associate Counsel to President George W. Bush, and Senior Deputy Chief Counsel to Governor Chris Christie, Mr. Coffina represented the interests of the Executive in legislative oversight investigations, legislative and public policy issues, judicial selection, litigation, and political-legal controversies. In the White House, Mr. Coffina advised the Office of Political Affairs, the same Office in which he served as a staff assistant under President Ronald Reagan.

Mr. Coffina has authored articles on various subjects, ranging from internal investigations, privilege issues, political corruption, police reform, and constitutional issues. He has also presented to professional organizations on these subjects and appeared as a guest on local and national television and radio talk shows. He was previously an Adjunct Professor at Rowan University, where he taught Constitutional Law.

Active in several community organizations, he currently serves as an Honorary Commander for the 2nd Air Refueling Squadron at Joint Base MDL, he's on the Leadership Council for Maryville Addiction Treatment Center, on the Board of Directors of Prevention Plus of Burlington County, and on the Advisory Committee for Jewish Family & Children's Services of Southern New Jersey.

Mr. Coffina graduated from Cornell University with a B.A. in Government and earned his law degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

Publications

"Will the Court 'Eighty-Six' the Comey Indictment?," *New Jersey Law Journal*, May 5, 2026.

"New Ground Broken by the New Jersey Division in Norcross Decision, but the Outcome Is the Same: Case Dismissed," *New Jersey Law Journal*, February 9, 2026.

"Let's Combat N.J. Cop Suicide Epidemic by Focusing on Mental Health, Resiliency," *New Jersey Advance Media, NJ.com*, May 19, 2025.

"Navigating the Storm: Pulling Through a Crisis When The Worst Is Over (Part 2)," *New Jersey Law Journal*, December 5, 2024.

"Navigating the Storm: Effective Crisis Management (Part 1)," *New Jersey Law Journal*, December 3, 2024.

"Corruption 101: Menendez indictment contains so many bombshell allegations, it's almost textbook," *Fox News,* September 23, 2023.

"NJ Justices Clarify Bribery Law Scope, But Questions Remain," *Law360,* August 21, 2023.

"Thoughts On Prosecutorial Discretion After Trump Indictments," *Law360*, July 6, 2023.

"Pence Subpoena Fight Clarified Key Constitutional Principles," *Law360*, April 17, 2023.

"On Bail Reform, Please Leave Well Enough Alone," *New Jersey Advance Media, NJ.com,* March 30, 2023.

"What Prosecutors Must Do to Protect their Communities," *FoxNews.com*, August 23, 2022.

"Justices Could Tighten Fraud Statute in Ex-Cuomo Aide Case," *Law360*, August 12, 2022.

"Quick Take: Vega v. Tekoh, No. 21-499 (U.S. June 23, 2022)" *Montgomery McCracken Client Alert*, July 1, 2022.

"Operation Helping Hand, Straight . . . to Treatment Saving Lives in Burlington County," *Courier Post*, April 27, 2021.

"Law Enforcement to Community: We Are Here to Listen, and to Learn," *Courier Post*, June 12, 2020.

"We're Prosecuting Drug Dealers for Homicide After Seeing Too Many Overdoses," *New Jersey Star Ledger*, March 16, 2018.

"What to Look for in the Menendez Case," *Legal Intelligencer*, June 2, 2015.

"Climate Surveys Are Coming," *Inside Higher Ed*, May 21, 2015.

"Seven Things to Know About the Campus Accountability and Safety Act," *Drinker Biddle Client Alert*, May 7, 2015.

"First Ladies Facing Ethics Complaints," *Legal Intelligencer*, March 3, 2015.

"Going Overboard: U.S. v. Yates and DOJ's "Most Serious Offense" Charging Policy," *Legal Backgrounder for Washington Legal Foundation,* January 30, 2015.

"Is Obamacare in Critical Condition?," *Legal Intelligencer,* November 25, 2014.

"Player Eligibility Above Academic Integrity? Ways to Avoid UNC-Chapel Hill's Academic Scandal," *Drinker Biddle Client Alert*, November 17, 2014.

"Making the Clery Act a More Effective Crime-Reporting Tool," *Legal Intelligencer*, September 30, 2014.

"Will Courts Embrace DOJ's New Definition of Willfulness for False Statement Prosecutions?," *Legal Backgrounder for Washington Legal Foundation,* September 12, 2014.

"Issa's On To Something," *National Review Online,* July 30, 2014.

"President's Recess Appointments Struck Down in Noel Canning," *Legal Intelligencer*, July 22, 2014.

"Shaming Our Schools," *National Review Online*, June 24, 2014.

"Did Lois Lerner Waive Her Fifth Amendment Rights?," *Legal Intelligencer*, May 20, 2014.

"Key Takeaways From Recent Reports On The Federal Government's Efforts To Combat Sexual Assault On Campus," *Drinker Biddle Client Alert*, May 13, 2014.

"Where Things Stand With Regulating 'Dark Money,'" *Legal Intelligencer*, March 25, 2014.

"The Perilous Legal Landscape of 'Bridgegate'," *Legal Intelligencer*, January 27, 2014.

"The Unlawful Delay," *National Review Online,* November 15, 2013.

"The Ethically and Legally Questionable Campaign to Promote Obamacare," *Legal Intelligencer,* October 1, 2013.

"Supreme Court to Review President's Recess Appointment Power," *Legal Intelligencer,* July 16, 2013.

"Supreme Court Decides To Hear Applicability of Sarbanes-Oxley's Whistleblower Protections," *Drinker Biddle Client Alert,* June 3, 2013.

"Regulating Political Intelligence Is Less Than Intelligent," *Legal Intelligencer*, May 29, 2013.

"The Legal and Ethical Issues Surrounding Organizing for Action," *Legal Intelligencer*, March 26, 2013.

"Ninth Circuit Affirms Conviction and Sentence in InterMune Pharmaceutical Marketing Fraud Case," *Drinker Biddle Client Alert*, March 8, 2013.

"Our Overcriminalized Society and Methods for Ensuring Justice," *Legal Intelligencer,* February 5, 2013.

"The President's Proposals on Gun Violence," *The Corner, National Review Online*, January 17, 2013.

"Gun Control by Executive Order?," *National Review Online*, January 16, 2013.

"Let's Have An Open Debate About Privacy," *Legal Intelligencer*, January 2, 2013.

"Coming Soon: Increased Scrutiny of Compounding Pharmacies," *BNA's Pharmaceutical Law and Industry Report*, November 16, 2012.

"Conducting Sound Internal Investigations: Now More Important Than Ever," *Drinker Biddle Client Alert*, November 15, 2012.

"The Obama Administration's Disregard of the Hatch Act and What it Means" *Legal Intelligencer,* October 30, 2012.

"HHS-OIG Work Plan," *Drinker Biddle Client Alert*, October 19, 2012.

"Secretary Sebelius Violates the Hatch Act," *National Review Online*, September 13, 2012.

"The Winding Road of Pennsylvania's Voter ID Litigation," *Legal Intelligencer*, September 4, 2012.

"House Republicans vs. Holder," *National Review Online*, August 16, 2012.

"Handicapping the Pennsylvania Voter ID Litigation," Legal Intelligencer, July 3, 2012.

"When In Doubt, Investigate," Inside Higher Ed, July 3, 2012.

"Amending the Hatch Act," National Law Journal, May 18, 2012.

"The STOCK Act: Working to Close an Egregious Loophole," Legal Intelligencer, March 8, 2012.

"Obama Stumps at Our Expense," Philadelphia Inquirer, December 18, 2011.

"The Hatch Act: A Shadowy Minefield for Federal Employees," *Legal Intelligencer*, July 29, 2011.

"New Jersey State Senate: Your Move," *Legal Intelligencer*, January 14, 2011.

"The Sestak 'Job Offer': A Hatch Act Violation For Sure," *The Corner, National Review Online*, May 31, 2010.

"White House, Sestak Need to Level with Us," *Politico*, May 27, 2010.

Speaking Engagements

"Working Across Generations: Building Better Legal Teams for the Future," *Burlington County Bar Association Professionalism Committee* (Mount Holly, NJ), November 12, 2026

"Walking the Line: Operating a Compliant Treatment Program in an Aggressive Enforcement Environment," *National Association for Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors EMPOWER 2026 Annual Conference* (Kansas City, MO), August 29, 2026

"Artificial Intelligence Plus Human Intelligence Equals Wellness," *Burlington County Bar Association Professionalism Committee* (Mount Holly, NJ), November 13, 2025

"Pretrial," *Arnold Ventures' Public Safety Boot Camp* (Austin, TX), January 18, 2025

"Regulatory Structure of Sober Living Residences," *New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police In-Service Series* (Webinar), February 2, 2024

"AI: Unlimited Potential or Too Good to be True - Positives and Pitfalls for Lawyers and Their Clients," *Burlington County Bar Association* (Mount Holly, NJ), January 18, 2024

"Couple and Homeless Man Conspire on Viral $400K GoFundMe Scam," *The Perfect Scam℠, AARP* (Podcast), December 22, 2023

"How to Run an Effective and Ethical Diversion Program," *Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative (PAARI) 2023 National Law Enforcement Summit* (Boston, MA), December 4, 2023

"Coloring Inside the Lines: How to Run an Effective and Ethical Diversion Program," *Police, Treatment, and Community Collaborative's (PTACC) 2023 National Deflection & Pre-Arrest Diversion Summit* (Denver, CO), October 4, 2023

"How to Run an Effective and Ethical Diversion Program," *New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police's Police Executive Institute*, May 10, 2023

"Status of Police Reform," *New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police Executive Inservice*, March 10, 2023

"Recent Developments with Miranda," *New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police Executive Briefing*, September 22, 2022

"When Charity Goes Wrong: The Infamous GoFundMe Good Samaritan Scam," *Institute for Jewish Ethics*, September 14, 2022

"Upping the Ante: Prosecuting Drug Dealers for First-Degree Homicide for Drug-Induced-Deaths of Their Customers" *National District Attorneys Association 2021 Summer Summit*, July 20, 2021

"Internal Investigations: Practical and Ethical Considerations for In-House Counsel and Compliance Officers" *DELVACCA 7th Annual In-House Counsel Conference*, April 21, 2015

"Synthesizing Areas of Overlap Between Title IX and the Clery Act" *Stetson University's National Conference on Law and Higher Education*, February 13, 2015

"Ensuring Compliance and Managing Risks in a Changing Environment: A Discussion with the General Counsel" *Stetson University's National Conference on Law and Higher Education*, February 13, 2015

"Not for the Faint-Hearted: Mounting a Strong Defense When the Government Is Your Adversary" *DELVACCA Chapter Litigation CLE Institute*, October 2014

"Managing Regulatory and Compliance Challenges" *Pennsylvania Bar Association, Inside-Outside Counsel Summit,* September 2014

Panelist, "Medical Device and Pharmaceutical Industries Update" *DRI Government Enforcement and Corporate Compliance Conference*, July 2014

"An Insiders' Guide to the Violence Against Women Act Negotiated Rulemaking: Implementing Changes to the Clery Act" *National Association of College and University Attorneys Annual Meeting*, June 2014

Bill Martinez Live, June 16, 2014

The Big Show with Bill Cunningham, *WLW-AM*, May 19, 2014

"The Power of the Executive Branch" *Drinker Biddle Online Briefing*, March 25, 2014

"Handling Parallel Criminal, Civil and Administrative Investigations" *14th Annual Pharmaceutical Regulatory and Compliance Congress,* October 2013

"Upon Further Review—Breaking Down the SEC Whistleblower Program" *DRI Government Enforcement and Corporate Compliance Conference*, June 2013

"Outside Investigations: When to Recommend Them and How to Survive Them" *National Association of College and University Attorneys Annual Meeting,* June 2013

Guest, The Andrea Tantaros Show*, Talk Radio Network*, June 14, 2013

Guest, The Andrea Tantaros Show*, Talk Radio Network*, May 21, 2013

Guest, The Andrea Tantaros Show*, Talk Radio Network*, January 17, 2013

"SOX to Dodd-Frank—10 Years of Increased Government Enforcement and Current Trends," *DRI Annual Meeting*, October 2012

"Friends, Co-Workers and Thieves: Coping with Fraud" *Eastern Region Association of Physical Plant Administrators Annual Meeting*, October 2012

Guest, All Things Considered, *National Public Radio*, September 6, 2012

Guest, America Live with Megyn Kelly, *Fox News Channel*, June 26, 2012

Witness before the House Oversight Committee Hearing, *Amending the Hatch Act*, May 16, 2012

Witness before the House Oversight Committee Hearing, The Hatch Act: The Challenges of Separating Politics from Policy, June 21, 2011

"Ethics and Internal Investigations" *National Association of College and University Attorneys Technology and Research Compliance Seminar*, November 2010

"Internal Investigations" *DRI Annual Meeting*, October 2010

Guest, *Good Day Philadelphia*, November 10, 2010

Guest, *Fox & Friends, Fox News Channel*, June 1, 2010

Guest, *Hannity, Fox News Channel*, May 28, 2010

Commencement speaker, *MMI Preparatory School*, Freeland, PA, May 2008

"Nuts and Bolts for Federal Sentencings" *Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers*, November 2006

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia
New Jersey
Pennsylvania
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
U.S. District Court - District of Columbia
U.S. District Court - Eastern District of Pennsylvania
U.S. Supreme Court