Michael A. Lafleur

Associate

Boston

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OVERVIEW

Michael is an associate in the firm's Regulatory Investigations, Strategy, and Enforcement Practice Group. Based out of the firm's Boston office, Mike has deep experience in litigation, investigations, and other regulatory matters involving state-level regulators and state attorneys general. Mike assists clients in navigating complex administrative proceedings and procedures, advises clients on litigation risk and the coordination of litigation strategy, including discovery and settlement negotiations, and provides representation at all stages of trial and appellate litigation. His extensive casework and litigation experience ensures that clients will receive sound guidance through all stages of complex government investigations.

Prior to joining the firm in 2023, Michael spent nearly 10 years litigating enforcement actions on behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, including as an assistant attorney general for the Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General, where he specialized in defending state regulatory actions in state and federal court. Previously, he was an assistant district attorney for the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office in Boston, where he prosecuted numerous trial and appellate matters.

Michael earned his J.D., *summa cum laude*, from Suffolk University Law School where he was the chief managing editor of the *Suffolk Transnational Law Review*.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Defended an enforcement action by the Massachusetts Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation before state trial and appellate courts, resulting in a published appellate decision, *Anketell v. Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation*, 195 N.E.3d 464 (Mass. App. Ct. 2022).
- Defended the Massachusetts Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs in a challenge under the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act to her regulatory approval of a major public infrastructure project in Boston Harbor.
- Co-led the defense in a class action matter asserting claims under the Americans with Disabilities Act and state law against the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development's program for housing homeless families.
- Authored the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court brief filed by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services, MassHealth, in an interlocutory appeal raising complex issues of federal and state Medicaid law.

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- Represented the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education in successfully moving to dismiss a faculty union's declaratory judgment action challenging academic restructuring measures at a state community college.
- Served as a key member of the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office team tasked with defending the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's statewide, COVID-19 masking policy.

AWARDS

- *Best Lawyers in America®: Ones to Watch*: Administrative / Regulatory Law (2027)

TOP AREAS OF FOCUS

- Environmental + Natural Resources
- False Claims Act + Other Whistleblower Actions
- Fraud + Abuse Litigation + Investigations
- Gaming
- Privacy + Cyber
- Public Records + FOIA Law
- State Attorneys General
- State Energy Regulation

ALL AREAS OF FOCUS

- Business Litigation
- Cannabis
- Environmental + Natural Resources
- False Claims Act + Other Whistleblower Actions
- Fraud + Abuse Litigation + Investigations
- Gaming
- Privacy + Cyber
- Public Records + FOIA Law
- Regulatory Investigations, Strategy + Enforcement
- State Attorneys General
- State Energy Regulation
- White Collar Litigation + Investigations

PROFESSIONAL/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Board of Directors, Adolescent Consultation Services, Inc., Cambridge, MA (2013-present)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Assistant attorney general, Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General (2018-2023)
- Assistant district attorney, Suffolk County District Attorney's Office (2013-2018)
- City Hall reporter, *The Lowell Sun* (2002-2008)
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City Hall reporter, *Tucson Citizen* (2000-2002)

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

EDUCATION

- Suffolk University Law School, J.D., *summa cum laude*, 2011
- The University of Arizona, B.A., 2000

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Massachusetts

COURT ADMISSIONS

- U.S. District Court, District of Massachusetts
- U.S. Court of Appeals, First Circuit

CLERKSHIPS

- Hon. Chief Justice Phillip Rapoza, Massachusetts Appeals Court, 2011-2013

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Speaker, "Challenging State Civil Investigative Demands Prohibited by Federal Law: Strategies and Practical Tips," BARBRI CLE, June 9, 2026.

PUBLICATIONS

- Co-author, "Massachusetts' Price Disclosure Rules Raise the Bar: Class Action and AG Enforcement Risks in a Post-Click-to-Cancel World," *Troutman Pepper Locke*, October 19, 2026.
- Co-author, "Methods For Challenging State Civil Investigative Demands," *Law360*, February 20, 2026.
- Co-author, "Colorado AG Fines Cannabis Company for Violating Prior Settlement," *Regulatory Oversight*, January 21, 2026.
- Co-author, "2025 State AG Year in Review," *Troutman Pepper Locke*, January 20, 2026.
- Co-author, "Mass. AG Emerges as Key Player in Consumer Protection," *Troutman Pepper Locke*, April 4, 2025.
- Co-author, "2024 State AG Year in Review," *Troutman Pepper Locke*, January 30, 2025.
- Co-author, "2024 State AG Election Re-Cap: Where Things Stand the Day after Election Day," *Troutman Pepper*, November 6, 2024.
- Co-author, "Rescheduling and Recreational Marijuana: Possible Step Toward National Legalization?," *Reuters* and *Westlaw Today*, July 2, 2024.
- Co-author, "Cannabis Rescheduling: A Potential Watershed Moment That Comes with Many As-Yet Unanswered Questions for the Marijuana Industry," *Cannabis Business Executive*, May 20, 2024.
- Co-author, "2023 State AG Year in Review," *Troutman Pepper*, January 29, 2024.
- Co-author, "How Cannabis Cos. Are Adapting in Shifting Bankruptcy Arena," *Law360*, December 4, 2023.
- Podcast, "Game On: Navigating the Legal Landscape of Sports Wagering," *Regulatory Oversight Podcast*, November 28, 2023.

- Co-author, “Making an Impact: State Attorneys General Races in 2023 and Beyond,” *Reuters*, September 7, 2023.
- Co-author, “California AG Petitions State Court for Order to Seize Assets From an Unlicensed Cannabis Dispensary,” *Regulatory Oversight*, August 8, 2023.