

Stephen J. Steinlight

Associate

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Stephen brings more than two decades of trial and appellate litigation experience in federal and state courts, as well as in arbitrations. He has handled a wide array of complex matters, including business, commercial, corporate, real estate, banking, financial services, consumer finance, securities industry/broker-dealer, white collar/regulatory, ERISA, and labor and employment.

OVERVIEW

Stephen is a seasoned litigator with ‘first chair’ and lead counsel experience in trials, evidentiary hearings, arbitrations, and appellate oral arguments across multiple jurisdictions and forums, including New York and New Jersey. He has successfully obtained judgments for his clients as the lead attorney in several multiday bench trials and arbitrations, and has also prevailed as lead counsel in oral arguments before the U.S. Court of Appeals, as well as New York’s and New Jersey’s appellate courts.

Clients frequently call upon Stephen in “escalated litigation” in order to mitigate risk and salvage ongoing complex disputes in problematic fact patterns and procedural postures, including disputes that span multiple fronts, where the parties are concurrently litigating before several courts and arbitration forums. In addition, Stephen regularly litigates in the class action space and against government regulators and agencies at the federal, state, and local levels. In his practice, Stephen has represented businesses and entities of diverse sizes and across a broad range of industries and sectors, such as financial services, banking, broker-dealers, real estate, manufacturing, health care, pharmaceuticals, hospitality, energy, utilities, education, and insurance, as well as individual executives and professionals.

Stephen has also litigated before government regulatory bodies such as the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), and numerous other federal, state, and local agencies, as well as self-regulating organizations such as the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) (formerly NASD/NYSE).

Stephen contributes his analysis and commentary on legal and business developments in the financial services industry through the firm’s *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor* blog and the *Financial Services Industry* blog.

Before joining the firm, Stephen worked at two other law firms that are listed on both *AmLaw 100* and the *Vault 100 Rankings: Most Prestigious Law Firms in America*.

Stephen devotes a material portion of his legal practice to pro bono causes, including criminal defense work for low income and diverse populations in New York City.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Represented banks, financial institutions, lenders, trusts, loan originators, servicers, consumer reporting agencies, payment processors, creditors, and debt buyers and collectors in financial services, lender liability, consumer, and mortgage-related compliance and litigation, including foreclosures, class actions, and other multiparty complex litigation involving statutory claims such as Uniform Commercial Code (UCC), the Holder in Due Course Rule, Electronic Funds Transfer Act (EFTA), Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA), Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA), Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA), Truth in Lending Act (TILA), Equal Credit Opportunity Act (ECOA), Home Ownership Equity Protection Act (HOEPA), Equal Credit Opportunity Act (ECOA), Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO), the Patriot Act, the Bank Secrecy Act (BSA), and their state counterparts, and implementing regulations, as well as various state-level predatory lending, fraud, and deceptive practices statutes.
- Litigated contentious white collar criminal matters and fraud claims, including disputes arising out of Ponzi schemes, bank wire fraud, account takeovers, and identity theft, with allegations involving aiding and abetting fraud, conspiracy, and collusion.
- Represented clients in contentious special actions and proceedings involving injunctions, restraining orders, declaratory relief, replevins, judgment enforcement, writs of attachment, garnishment, levies, turnover orders, and in non-party discovery disputes, including involving extensive electronic discovery (ESI Discovery) and in the context of U.S. Bankruptcy Court Rule 2004 Examinations, and subpoenas for documents, information, and oral testimony, and special proceedings for pre-litigation discovery and for alleged discovery abuses such as for spoliation, adverse inference, and contempt of court orders.
- Defended clients in regulatory investigations and enforcement proceedings before the CFPB, U.S. Department of Justice, state attorneys general, SEC, FINRA, and EEOC.
- Litigated securities industry disputes on behalf of broker-dealers and individuals involving customer and investor claims for supervision, breaches of fiduciary duty, account mismanagement, suitability, and churning, as well as litigated intra-industry broker disputes, defended FINRA and SEC enforcement proceedings, and litigated FINRA employment law arbitrations involving issues related to Form U-4s/U-5s, promissory notes, loans, bonuses, and other compensation claims.
- Counseled and litigated labor and employment law matters for businesses, entities, and individuals involving a wide range of issues, including discrimination, harassment, whistle-blowing, retaliation, employment hiring, discipline and terminations, defamation, tortious interference, family and disability leaves and accommodations, and employment and post-employment contracts, including noncompetes, confidentiality agreements, and severance.
- Defended health law claims asserted against insurers, plan and claims administrators, employers, plan fiduciaries, and managed care organizations in connection with health benefits plans, including litigation asserted under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) and other federal and state health law statutes.
- Litigated business and commercial disputes involving breaches of contract and fiduciary duty, business torts, fraud, misrepresentation, corporate partnership and shareholder rights, real estate, creditor rights and collections, intellectual property, insurance, and ERISA matters.

Representative Cases

- *Henry v Capital One, N.A.*, 22-1088, 2023 WL 4044107 (2d Cir. 2023)
- *Reyes v Capital One Fin. Corp.*, CV221176JMAAYS, 2023 WL 2540567 (E.D.N.Y. 2023), *report and recommendation adopted*, 22CV1176JMAAYS, 2023 WL 2538922 (E.D.N.Y. 2023)
- *L&M Const. Dry Wall Inc. v Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.*, 2022 N.Y. Slip Op. 33168[U], 2022 WL 20472238 (N.Y. Sup Ct, Nassau County 2022)

- *Ally Fin. Inc. v Comfort Auto Group NY LLC*, 20CV1281MKBRLM, 2022 WL 4813505 (E.D.N.Y. 2022)
- *Maier Solar Eng'g, LLC v Wells Fargo, N.A.*, CV 21-13292 (FLW), 2022 WL 884367 (D.N.J. 2022)
- *Pincover v J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, N.A.*, 592 F Supp 3d 212 (S.D.N.Y. 2022)
- *Shuriz Hishmeh, M.D., PLLC v. Empire Health Choice Assurance, Inc. d/b/a Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield*, No. 19-CV-03144 (JMA) (ARL), 2020 WL 4452112 (E.D.N.Y., Aug. 3, 2020)
- *Shuriz Hishmeh, M.D., PLLC v. Verizon Communications Inc., et al.*, No. 2:19-CV-03082 (DRH)(AKT) (E.D.N.Y. July 30, 2020)
- *Rothman v. Capital One Auto Finance*, No. 20-01220-ABA (Bankr.D.N.J. June 17, 2020)
- *Capital One Financial Corporation et al v. Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc., et al.*, No. 1:19-CV-11582 (VSB) (S.D.N.Y. June 9, 2020)
- *Somerset Orthopedic Assocs., P.A. v. Horizon Healthcare Servs., Inc.*, No. CV 19-8783, 2020 WL 1983693 (D.N.J. Apr. 27, 2020)
- *Long Island Neurosurgical Assocs., P.C. v. Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield*, No. 18CV3963JMAAYS, 2020 WL 1452465 (E.D.N.Y. Mar. 25, 2020)
- *Univ. Spine Ctr. v. Anthem Blue Cross of California*, No. CV1912639KMJBC, 2020 WL 814181 (D.N.J. Feb. 18, 2020)
- *Taubenfliegel v. United Collection Bureau, Inc.*, No. 18-CV-2005 (MKB), 2019 WL 1934519 (E.D.N.Y. May 1, 2019)
- *Meintzinger v. Sortis Holdings, Inc.*, No. 18-CV-2042 (BMC), 2019 WL 1471338 (E.D.N.Y. Apr. 3, 2019)
- *Aliperio v. Bank of America, N.A.*, 764 F. App'x 236 (3d Cir. 2019)
- *Munoz v. Portfolio Recovery Assocs., LLC*, No. 2:18-CV-12705 (KM)(CLW), 2019 WL 2412623 (D.N.J. Jan. 22, 2019)
- *Advanced Orthopedics & Sports Med. Inst. v. Anthem Blue Cross Life & Health Ins. Co.*, No. 17-8848 (MAS)(LHG), 2018 WL 6603650 (D.N.J. Dec. 14, 2018)
- *Reiter v. Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield*, No. 17-H622, 2018 WL 3472627 (D.N.J. July 18, 2018)
- *Univ. Spine Ctr. v. Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield*, No. 2:17-CV-9108 (KM)(MAH), 2018 WL 3327930 (D.N.J. July 5, 2018)
- *Dautrich v. Nationstar Mortg., LLC*, No. 15-8278, 2018 WL 3201786 (D.N.J. June 29, 2018)
- *Advanced Orthopedics & Sports Med. Inst. v. Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield*, No. 17-8848 (MAS)(LHG), 2018 WL 2289879 (D.N.J. May 18, 2018)
- *Tracey Rd. Equip., Inc. v. Ally Fin., Inc.*, No. 5:18-CV-0011, 2018 WL 1578160 (N.D.N.Y. Mar. 29, 2018)
- *Shibles v. Bank of America, N.A.*, 730 F. App'x 103 (3d Cir. 2018)
- *Gordon v. Bank of America, N.A.*, No 2:16-CV-03093, 2017 WL 1377673 (D.N.J. Apr. 12, 2017)
- *English v. Fed. Nat'l Mortg. Ass'n*, No.: 13-CV-2028, 2017 WL 1084515 (D.N.J. Mar. 21, 2017)
- *Martinez v. Bank of America, N.A.*, 664 F. App'x 250 (3d Cir. 2016)
- *Bank of America, N.A. v. Yodice*, No. F-040103-15, 2016 WL 4430095 (N.J. Super. Ch. Div. Aug. 12, 2016)
- *Bank of America, N.A. v. Delaplain*, No. F-002344-16, 2016 WL 3646848 (N.J. Super. Ch. Div. July 8, 2016)
- *Peters v. Countrywide Home Loans, Inc.*, No. 15-6329, 2016 WL 2869059 (D.N.J. May 17, 2016)
- *Dophin v. Bank of America Mortg. Co.*, 641 F. App'x 131 (3d Cir. 2016)
- *Valladares v. Fed. Nat'l Mortg. Ass'n*, No. 15-1946, 2016 WL 70461 (D.N.J. Jan. 5, 2016)
- *Maccagno v. Provident Funding Assocs. L.P.*, No. 15-5573, 2015 WL 12777085 (D.N.J. Nov. 3, 2015)
- *Andujar v. Deutsche Bank Nat'l Tr. Co.*, No. 14-7836, 2015 WL 4094637 (D.N.J. July 7, 2015)
- *Gonzalez v. U.S. Bank Nat'l Ass'n*, No. 14-7855, 2015 WL 3648984 (D.N.J. June 11, 2015)
- *Bank of America, N.A. v. Mendes*, F-13831-15, 2015 WL 4919896 (N.J. Super. Ch. Div. Aug. 07, 2015)
- *Bank of America, N.A. v. Hasan*, No. F-6652-14, 2015 WL 3455223 (N.J. Super. Ch. Div. May 29, 2015)
- *Green Tree Servicing, LLC v. Bornstein*, No. F-31906-14, 2015 WL 3400401 (N.J. Super. Ch. Div. May 27, 2015)
- *Hudson City Savings Bank, FSB v. Kowaleski*, No. F-5213-15, 2015 WL 2323886 (N.J. Super. Ch. Div. May 8,

2015)

- *Dickerson v. Nationstar*, No. 14–6205, 2015 WL 418161 (D.N.J. Jan. 29, 2015)
- *Song v. Bank of America, N.A.*, No. 2:14–3204, 2015 WL 248436 (D.N.J. Jan. 20, 2015)
- *Lau v. MERSCorp Holdings, Inc.*, No. C-16016-14, 2014 WL 5483744 (N.J. Super. Ch. Div. Oct. 29, 2014)
- *Hudson City Savings Bank, FSB v. Boyer*, No. F-10381-14, 2014 WL 5438031 (N.J. Super. Ch. Div. Oct. 24, 2014)
- *Bank of New York Mellon, FKA v. Parker*, No. F-17594-14, 2014 WL 5438033 (N.J. Super. Ch. Div. Oct. 10, 2014)
- *Abraham v. Countrywide Home Loans, Inc.*, No. F-38819-13, 2014 WL 4251143 (N.J. Super. Ch. Div. Aug. 22, 2014)
- *Bank of America, N.A. v. Hopkins*, No. F-012823-14, 2014 WL 4251141 (N.J. Super. Ch. Div. Aug. 20, 2014)

TOP AREAS OF FOCUS

- Consumer Financial Services
- Financial Services Litigation
- Litigation + Trial
- Securities Investigations + Enforcement

ALL AREAS OF FOCUS

- Appellate + Supreme Court
- Auto Finance
- Banking Litigation
- Bankruptcy + Restructuring
- Business Litigation
- Class Action
- Community Banking
- Consumer Debt Servicing + Protection
- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)
- Consumer Financial Services
- Consumer Law Compliance
- Consumer Reporting Agencies + Background Screening
- Credit Unions
- Enforcement Actions + Investigations
- Executive + Equity-Based Compensation
- Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA)
- Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA)
- Financial Services
- Financial Services Litigation
- Government + Regulatory
- Governmental Audits, Benefit Claims + ERISA Litigation
- Health Care Insurance
- Insolvency Litigation

- Litigation + Trial
- Mortgage Lending + Servicing
- Online Lending
- Payments + Financial Technology
- Real Estate Litigation
- Secured Lender Representation
- Securities Investigations + Enforcement
- Securities Litigation
- State Attorneys General
- Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA)
- White Collar Litigation + Investigations

PROFESSIONAL/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- The Bronx Defenders
- Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts (VLA) Legal Clinic
- New Jersey Courts Criminal Pro Bono Project
- American Bar Association
- New York State Bar Association
- New Jersey State Bar Association
- City of New York Bar Association
- Rutgers Law School Alumni Association
- Cornell University Class of 1998 Alumni Association
- Cornell Alumni Admissions Ambassador Network

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

EDUCATION

- Rutgers Law School, J.D., 2001, notes editor, Nuremberg Project founder, and editor, *Rutgers Journal of Law and Religion*; Rutgers Moot Court Program (Top Oralist Prize)
- Cornell University, B.A., *magna cum laude in government and with distinction in all subjects (Sherman-Bennett Prize)*, 1998

BAR ADMISSIONS

- New York 2002
- New Jersey 2001

COURT ADMISSIONS

- U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York
- U.S. District Court, Western District of New York
- U.S. District Court, District of New Jersey

- U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Third Circuit
- U.S. Bankruptcy Court, District of New Jersey
- U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of New York
- U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of New York
- U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Western District of New York

CLERKSHIPS

- Hon. Joseph E. Irenas, U.S. District Court, District of New Jersey
- Hon. Frank M. Donato, Superior Court of New Jersey (Civil Law Division)

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Co-presenter, “Defending Collection Disputes in the COVID-19 and Economic Downturn Climate,” Lorman Education Series, July 28, 2020.
- Speaker, “Collection Disputes: A Good Defense Is the Best Offense,” Lorman Education Series, July 24, 2019.
- Speaker, “Collection Disputes: A Good Defense Is the Best Offense,” Lorman Education Series, February 20, 2019.

PUBLICATIONS

- Co-author, “Troutman Pepper Publishes 2023 Consumer Financial Services Year in Review and A Look Ahead,” *Troutman Pepper*, February 1, 2024.
- Author, “Securities Industry Arbitrations and Litigation Update: FINRA Reaffirms Its Commitment to Enforcement Actions In Connection with the Protection Of Elderly Investor Customers,” *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor*, June 22, 2023.
- Author, “Securities Industry Arbitrations and Litigation Update: FINRA Member Firms Don’t Forget to “Dot Your I’s and Cross Your T’s” in Seeking to Confirm Promissory Note Arbitration Award,” *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor*, June 2, 2023.
- Co-author, “2022 Consumer Financial Services Year in Review and a Look Ahead,” *Troutman Pepper*, March 15, 2023.
- Co-author, “2021 Consumer Financial Services Year in Review & A Look Ahead,” *Troutman Pepper*, January 28, 2022.
- Author, “Securities Industry Arbitrations and Litigation Update: FINRA Arbitration Statistics Through May 31 Evidence Continuing Decline of Promissory Note Arbitrations — but Will the Trend Last?,” *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor*, July 19, 2021.
- Author, “Securities Industry Arbitrations and Litigation Update: FINRA Issues Regulatory Notice 21-16 Concerning Predispute Arbitration Agreement Requirements,” *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor*, June 28, 2021.
- Author, “Securities Industry Arbitrations and Litigation Update: Ninth Circuit Compels Dispute to FINRA Arbitration,” *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor*, June 28, 2021.
- Author, “Securities Industry Arbitrations and Litigation Update: Newly Introduced Bill Could Prohibit Mandatory FINRA Arbitration of Customer Disputes and Further Bar Restrictions on Bringing Class Actions for Security Disputes,” *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor*, June 28, 2021.
- Author, “Securities Industry Arbitrations and Litigation Update: FINRA Announces It Will Resume In-Person Arbitration and Mediation Proceedings Beginning July 5, 2021 for 62 of 69 of its Dispute Resolution Services Locations,” *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor*, June 28, 2021.

- Author, "Securities Industry Arbitrations and Litigation Update: Second Circuit Affirms Southern District of New York's Denial of Investment Banker's Motion to Vacate FINRA Arbitration Award for the Arbitration Panel's Alleged "Manifest Disregard of the Law," *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor*, June 28, 2021.
- Co-author, "2020 Consumer Financial Services Year in Review & A Look Ahead," *Troutman Pepper*, March 2, 2021.
- Author, "Southern District of New York Dismisses Putative Class Complaint Alleging Auto Insurer's Use of Payment Plan Installment Fees Violated the New York Deceptive Practices Act," *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor*, November 20, 2020.
- Author, "New York Continues Suspension of Medical and Student Debt Collections Until 2021," *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor*, November 13, 2020.
- Author, "Troutman Pepper Attorneys to Present on Defending Collection Disputes in the COVID-19 and Economic Downturn Climate," *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor*, July 13, 2020.
- Author, "Amid COVID-19 Struggle, New York Abandons Plan to Implement State Licensure of Debt Collectors," *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor*, April 9, 2020.
- Author, "New York Reduces the Statute of Limitations for Recovery of Medical Debt," *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor*, April 8, 2020.
- Author, "Regulators FINRA, SEC, and CFPB Send Warning Alerts to Consumer-Investors of Coronavirus-Related Scams," *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor*, April 2, 2020.
- Author, "FINRA Issues Notice in Reaction to COVID-19 Epidemic," *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor*, March 24, 2020.
- Author, "Troutman Attorneys to Present on Defending Collection Disputes," *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor*, March 13, 2020.
- Author, "FINRA Investigates Broker "Zero Commission" Practices," *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor*, March 3, 2020.
- Author, "FINRA Seeks Higher Fees for Expungement Hearings," *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor*, February 24, 2020.
- Co-author, "2019 Consumer Financial Services Year in Review & A Look Ahead," *Troutman Sanders*, February 24, 2020.
- Author, "FINRA Names a New Head of Enforcement," *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor*, February 3, 2020.
- Author, "FINRA Proposes New Rules Aimed at Assisting Investors in Recovering Unpaid Arbitration Awards," *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor*, February 3, 2020.
- Author, "Massachusetts to Join Other States in Regulating Student Loan Servicers," *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor*, December 2, 2019.
- Author, "New York Adopts Final Regulations for Student Loan Servicers," *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor*, December 2, 2019.
- Author, "Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Issues Final HMDA Rule," *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor*, October 28, 2019.
- Author, "FINRA Targets Amending Expungement Process of Broker and Financial Advisor Records," *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor*, October 28, 2019.
- Author, "AGs From 28 States Send Letter to CFPB to Stop Proposal Allowing Debt Collectors to Use Social Media," *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor*, October 22, 2019.
- Author, "Corporate Structure Shields Corporate Entities from TCPA Liability," *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor*, October 22, 2019.
- Author, "Debt Collector Prevails in Dismissing FDCPA Complaint Over Avila Disclosure in Collection Letter," *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor*, October 21, 2019.
- Author, "New York Court of Appeals May Settle Statute of Limitations Issues Related to Mortgage Foreclosures," *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor*, October 21, 2019.

- Author, "Sock Maker Bombas Settles with New York AG Over Failure to Notify of Credit Card Data Breach," *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor*, July 23, 2019.
- Author, "FINRA Provides New Guidance to Member Firms on Extraordinary Cooperation Credit," *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor*, July 23, 2019.
- Author, "Lorman Webinar: Collection Disputes: A Good Defense Is The Best Offense – July 24," *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor*, May 20, 2019.
- Author, "FINRA Proposes Rule to Aid Prevailing Customers and Investors with Unpaid Arbitration Awards Against Broker-Dealers," *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor*, May 9, 2019.
- Author, "District of New Jersey Dismisses TCPA Claim with Rule 11 Sanctions Under Review," *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor*, May 8, 2019.
- Author, "It Is the New Jersey Consumer Fraud Act, Not the New Jersey Breach of Contract Act," *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor*, May 8, 2019.
- Author, "CFPB Reports on Mortgage Complaint Trends in New York and New Jersey," *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor*, February 15, 2019.
- Author, "CFPB Announces New Senior Leadership," *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor*, February 15, 2019.
- Author, "New Jersey's Appellate Division Affirms Dismissal of Borrower's Trespass Claim Against Mortgage Loan Servicer Following Securing of Property After Abandonment and Default," *Consumer Financial Services Law Monitor*, January 2, 2019.