

Steven J. McCool

Partner



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Education

Washington College of Law,
American University
Dickinson College

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia
Maryland
Pennsylvania
Virginia

Court Admissions

U.S. Supreme Court
U.S. Court of Appeals, D.C. Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit
U.S. District Court, District of Columbia
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of
Virginia
U.S. District Court, Western District of
Virginia
U.S. District Court, District of
Maryland

Prior Experience

Assistant United States Attorney
for the District of Columbia
Criminal, Superior Court and
Civil Divisions
1990-1998

Law Clerk to Hon. Robert M. Scott
Superior Court of the
District of Columbia
1989-1990

Steven McCool, a former Federal prosecutor, has served as lead counsel in more than 75 criminal and civil jury and bench trials.

He is a Fellow of the *American College of Trial Lawyers*. *The National Law Journal* has named him as one of 50 lawyers in the United States who has made his mark in white-collar litigation. In *Chambers & Partners*, in 2018, his peers described him as an “incredibly talented trial lawyer.” In 2017, his peers described him as “one of the best trial lawyers in the city.” Another peer added: “He wins the unwinnable cases. I’ve never seen anyone more committed to the interests of his clients.” In 2016, his peers described him as an “exceptionally gifted” trial lawyer and a “tenacious” advocate for his clients, “including SEC enforcement, internal and grand jury investigations, in addition to FCA litigation.”

Mr. McCool is identified as one of the *Best Lawyers in America*® by *U.S. News & World Report* (Tier 1 – Criminal Defense: White-Collar Litigation). He is routinely recognized as one of “Washington’s Top Lawyers” by *Washingtonian Magazine*, and in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018, Mr. McCool was named as one of the “Top 100 Lawyers in Washington, DC” by *Super Lawyers*®. *Main Justice* honored Mr. McCool with its Distinguished Service Award in the Zealous Advocates category and as one of five nominees for Trial Firm of the Year in its first annual Best FCPA Lawyers Client Services Awards.

During his tenure at the U.S. Attorney’s Office, Mr. McCool was involved in a number of the Office’s highest-profile cases, including the murder of Metropolitan Police Officer Jason E. White in 1994. Mr. McCool was also the lead and only prosecutor in the 1996 prosecution of three gang members who were responsible for nine murders during a one-month spree of violence in the District of Columbia. After a six-month trial – still one of the longest trials in the history of the Superior Court for the District of Columbia – the jury returned guilty verdicts against all three defendants, who were all sentenced to life imprisonment. Mr. McCool received Special Achievement Awards for his work from the United States Department of Justice in 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998.

OTHER SELECTED REPRESENTATIONS

- In 2003, after founding Mallon & McCool, Mr. McCool completed the longest federal criminal trial in the history of the District of Columbia. A Federal judge appointed Mr. McCool to represent a client charged, how controlled the heroin market in the Metropolitan Area, with leading a racketeering and continuing criminal enterprise that was alleged to have been responsible for 31 murders. The government vehemently sought the death penalty. Following a 12-month trial, Mr. McCool obtained acquittals on a number of murder charges and convinced jurors not to impose a death sentence for his client.
- Appointed by a Federal Judge as lead counsel for indigent client charged with Conspiracy to Distribute One Kilogram or More of Phencyclidine, Possessing a Firearm During a Federal Drug Trafficking Offense, Armed Extortion, Armed Robbery, First Degree Burglary While Armed, Obstruction of Justice, Cruelty to Children, Unlawful Possession with the Intent to Distribute Phencyclidine and Possession of an Unregistered Firearm. On March 24, 2015, following a 12-week trial, a jury acquitted Mr. McCool’s client on all charges, except lesser burglary, narcotics and firearm offenses.
- Lead counsel for former-NSA Station Chief charged with First Degree Child Abuse Resulting in Death, for killing his three-year-old adopted son. Prosecutors sought a sentence of 40 years. Following a lengthy sentencing hearing involving expert testimony, client sentenced to 12 years. *State of Maryland v. Brian O’Callaghan*, Case No. 124572C.

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- Lead counsel for former KPMG attorney charged with traveling across state lines for the purpose of engaging in sexual conduct with a minor. Prosecutors sought a term of 71 months imprisonment. Following a sentencing hearing involving expert testimony, client sentenced to 40 months. *United States v. Adam Bryant*, Criminal Case No. 08-170 (JR).
- Acquittal following trial of a Georgetown University student charged with multiple counts of assault in D.C. Superior Court. *United States v. Justin Weiss*, Criminal Case No. 2008-CMD-22427.
- 9-month *Booker* sentence in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia for a client who faced a 10-year mandatory sentence for distributing crack cocaine.
- Acquittal following trial of a George Washington University student charged with assaulting a taxi cab driver. *United States of America v. Bailey Daniel*, Criminal Case No. 2006-CMD-11470.
- Dismissal for U.S. Naval officer charged with aggravated assault. Following a preliminary hearing, a D.C. Superior Court magistrate judge agreed there was no probable cause to arrest Mr. McCool's client. *United States v. Theodore Allen Hermeling, III*, Criminal Case No. 2008-CF2-15964.
- Lead counsel for client charged with possession of child pornography. Court imposed term of 24 months imprisonment, following favorable sentencing recommendation by the government. *United States of America v. Sidney Spain*, Criminal Case No. 08-007.
- Dismissal of a murder charge brought against the owner of a well-known, District of Columbia nightclub, after the Metropolitan Police Chief announced to the television media that his client and others beat a man to death. *United States v. William Spieler*, Criminal Case No. 2010-CF2-019482.
- Following a three-week long *Kastigar* hearing, dismissal of all charges against a former Blackwater security guard charged with 14 counts of manslaughter, 20 counts of attempted manslaughter and firearms offenses in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. *United States v. Donald Ball*, Criminal Case No. 08-360.
- Set aside of conviction in Duke University Lacrosse case in D.C. Superior Court. *United States v. Collin Finnerty*, Criminal Case No. M-11947-05
- Sentence significantly below the mandatory-minimum term of imprisonment for client charged with possession of prohibited images in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.
- Sentence of probation for a client facing a mandatory-minimum term of imprisonment for driving while intoxicated in D.C. Superior Court.
- Dismissal for Towson State University student charged with burglary and other felonies in the Circuit Court for Baltimore County Maryland.
- Reduction of sentence for client in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, following successful appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.
- Sentence of probation for University of Maryland student charged with possession with the intent to distribute large amounts of marijuana and LSD in the Circuit Court for Prince Georges County Maryland.
- Dismissal of credit card fraud charges in Circuit Court for Montgomery County Maryland.
- Arrest records sealed following acquittal at trial on assault charges in the D.C. Superior Court.
- Return of client's firearms on Second Amendment grounds in the Circuit Court for Montgomery County Maryland.