



Sherry Hartel Haus Partner / General Counsel

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Practice Areas

Class Action Defense | Complex Business Litigation | Financial Institutions
| White Collar, Investigations, and Compliance

Sherry Haus is a partner in Downey Brand's litigation practice group and serves as the firm's General Counsel.

As General Counsel, Sherry Haus manages Downey Brand's legal affairs, and serves as counselor to the Firm's attorneys at all levels. She oversees and advises on a vast range of matters, including litigation, policy development and enforcement, risk management, compliance, ethics, and insurance matters.

In addition to her responsibilities to the firm, Sherry is a seasoned litigator with deep experience in white collar criminal defense, securities litigation and counseling, and internal investigations. A former federal prosecutor and a former special assistant district attorney, Sherry has tried many cases to verdict in federal and state courts.

Sherry's current practice focuses on **complex business litigation** and **white collar investigations and criminal defense**, as well as on advising and representing lawyers and law firms.

Sherry has extensive experience counseling, handling government investigations, and litigating on behalf of public companies, as well as officers and directors, in both civil and criminal matters, including parallel civil and criminal federal investigations. She has represented numerous Fortune 500 companies and financial institutions in investigations by DOJ, the SEC, and other government agencies. Sherry provides guidance on compliance policies and issues such as anti-money laundering requirements and conducts internal investigations for companies and their audit committees. Sherry was part of the trial team for *Howard v. Hui*, one of very few shareholder securities class action cases tried to verdict since 1996, and selected by *The National Law Journal* as one of the Top 20 Defense Verdicts of 2002.

From 2013 to 2016, Sherry served as an Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) for the Eastern District of California, where she investigated, prosecuted, and tried cases for the white collar criminal division of one of the largest and busiest federal districts in the country. She focused on economic crimes, including tax fraud, financial fraud, public corruption, procurement fraud, healthcare fraud, and cases involving child exploitation. As an AUSA, Sherry successfully tried multiple cases to conviction. She prosecuted a massive unemployment and disability fraud case, involving hundreds of claimants. Chief United States District Judge Morrison C. England, Jr. called the case "one of the longest-running, most sophisticated fraud schemes that [the court has] ever seen."

Prior to her work as a federal prosecutor, Sherry specialized in white collar criminal defense and securities litigation defense and counseling at a major international law firm.

Sherry is staunchly committed to pro bono legal work in a variety of arenas. She has done significant pro bono work in a variety of areas, including immigration, civil rights, constitutional law, diplomatic immunity, and international human trafficking, as well as domestic violence matters. She was a key member of a team that provided legal advice regarding amendments to a country's peace agreement. She also recently served on a team that drafted legislation to address sextortion as part of a national effort to craft state laws to address what the FBI has identified as "by far the most significant growing threat to children" on the Internet. In 2017, Governor Brown signed SB 500, making California the 5th state to adopt laws addressing "sextortion," joining Utah, Arkansas, Texas and Alabama. During law school, Sherry worked with environmental *amici curiae* on the landmark United States Supreme Court environmental law case, *Whitman v. American Trucking Associations, Inc.*, 531 U.S. 457 (2001).

Experience

- Successfully appealed \$62 million award against client companies, on grounds that the award was not supported by substantial evidence and the valuation model was without foundation.
- Representation of many public companies, officers and directors, in securities class actions and parallel derivative actions and government investigations.
- Representation of software companies in investigations by the California Department of Justice.
- Representation of medical device manufacturers in federal criminal and civil healthcare fraud investigations.
- Handled internal investigation for major research university.
- Advised Fortune 500 technology company on anti-money laundering policies.
- Conducted internal investigation in Central America of a Fortune 500 company into alleged anti-money laundering violations related to its vendors.
- Representation of numerous financial services companies, including banks, broker dealers, mutual funds and hedge funds, in SEC investigations involving alleged trading irregularities and insider trading.
- Advised clean energy financing company on issues related to the Bank Secrecy Act.
- Representation of a large bank in government investigations concerning foreign exchange pricing and ERISA claims.
- Advised major financial services institution with respect to anti-money laundering issues.
- Successfully represented clients in the healthcare industry in civil and criminal proceedings involving the Anti-Kickback Statute and the False Claims Act.
- Obtained dismissal of a qui tam False Claims Act suit against a medical device manufacturer.
- Obtained dismissal of class action against a major provider of student loans and its officials, which accused defendants of making false claims about the company's loan portfolios.
- Obtained denial of class certification in and voluntary dismissal of a securities class action for a life

sciences company.

Professional & Community Service

- Capital Stage, Board of Directors
- Sacramento County Bar Association, Criminal Law Section
- California Lawyers Association, Criminal Law Section
- Federal Bar Association, Sacramento Chapter

Education

- J.D., University of California at Berkeley School of Law, 2001
- , Completed courses while completing M.P.P., Harvard Law School, 1998-2000
- M.P.P., Public Policy, Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government, 2000
- B.A., Economics and English (American Literature and Culture), UCLA, 1997

Honors & Rankings

- *Super Lawyers*, New England Super Lawyers Rising Star, 2009-2011
- *Sacramento Magazine*, Top Lawyer, Criminal Defense: White Collar, 2019; Securities Litigation, 2022
- Harvard Kennedy Fellowship (full-tuition merit-based scholarship)
- UCLA Chancellor's Service Award

Speaking Engagements / Events

- *The Revolving Door: Lateral Movement in the Era of Free Agency*, Panelist, Law Firm General Counsel Roundtable, Miami, FL, May 9, 2023
- *California Water Management, Policy, and Regulation in This Time of Extremes*, Argent Communications 36th Annual California Water Law & Policy Virtual Conference, May 17 & 19, 2022
- *Managing Risk and Navigating Ethics and Professional Responsibility At Business Intake*, Presenter, CLE Course, Sacramento, CA, November 2022
- *Challenges of Addressing Sensitive Political, Social, and Cultural Issues*, Panelist, Law Firm General Counsel Roundtable, Louisville, KY, October 18, 2022
- *Ethics Update & Traps for the Unwary 2021*, Presenter, CLE Course, November 9, 2021
- *Professional Responsibility and Ethics Update and Refresher 2020*, Presenter, CLE Course, November 18, 2020
- *COVID-19 Webinar No. 1: Considerations for Businesses & Employers*, Downey Brand COVID-19 Webinar Series, March 20, 2020

- *The New Rules of Professional Conduct: What Water Lawyers Need to Know*, Speaker, ACWA Legal Briefing and CLE Workshop, December 3, 2019
- *Meet the New Rules—Same as the Old Rules?*, Presenter, CLE Course, November 2, 2018

Publications

- *Defending Securities Class Actions*, ALI-ABA, Securities Litigation: Planning and Strategies, 2003
- *Defending Securities Class Actions*, ALI-ABA, Securities Litigation: Planning and Strategies, 2002
- *The Due Diligence Defense in Public Offering Litigation*, PLI, Conducting Due Diligence, 2001
- *Defending Securities Class Actions*, ALI-ABA, Securities Litigation: Planning and Strategies, 2001
- *Getting Into College*, Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government, 2001