

Counsel, Washington, D.C.

Litigation; Government Enforcement and White Collar Crime



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Education

J.D., College of William and Mary,
Marshall-Wythe School of Law, 2000
B.A., University of Colorado, 1996

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia
Virginia
U.S. District Court for the District of
Columbia
U.S. District Court for the Eastern
District of Virginia
U.S. District Court for the Western
District of Virginia
U.S. Court of Appeals for the
Fourth Circuit

Experience

Law Clerk, Hon. Glen E. Conrad,
Magistrate Judge, U.S. District Court
for the Western District of Virginia
(2000-01)

Darren Welch represents and advises a broad range of companies and individuals in regulatory investigations, enforcement proceedings and examinations, as well as in civil litigation on all types of consumer financial services issues. Mr. Welch's practice focuses on fair lending; laws governing unfair, deceptive or abusive acts or practices; sales practices risk; credit reporting; information privacy; and a wide variety of other consumer financial protection issues. His practice also includes transactional diligence; securities, class action and general litigation; statistical model review; safety and soundness examinations and enforcement; bank receivership director and officer litigation and enforcement; and internal investigations.

Mr. Welch represents clients before the U.S. Department of Justice, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Federal Trade Commission, federal banking regulators and state attorneys general.

Among his notable recent representations are:

- Wells Fargo Bank in connection with an inquiry by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau regarding sales practices, and other banks in sales practices examinations by the Office of Comptroller of the Currency and other regulators;
- Capital One in connection with a federal lawsuit regarding branch closures in Texas;
- Credit Acceptance Corp. in a lawsuit by the Mississippi attorney general regarding the origination and servicing of automobile finance contracts;
- mortgage loan investors in connection with fair lending testing of their portfolios and models;
- a model developer regarding model governance processes and model reviews;
- investors and financial advisors in connection with debt and equity transactions related to emerging fintech participants; and
- bank officers and directors in investigations and litigation commenced by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Mr. Welch has lectured and published on various topics, including consumer financial services litigation and enforcement, consumer compliance risk management, fintech developments and the Dodd-Frank Act. A list of lectures and presentations is below.

Selected Publications

"Special Purpose Credit Programs – Taking a Second Look at a Familiar Tool," *Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP*, July 29, 2020

"Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Launches Advisory Opinion Process," *Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP*, June 19, 2020

"Paycheck Protection Program: An Overview of Fair Lending Risks," *Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP*, May 19, 2020

"Proposed Rule Could Substantially Affect 'Disparate Impact' Claims Under the Fair Housing Act," *Skadden's 2020 Insights*, January 21, 2020

"Managing Compliance Risks For Income Share Agreements," *Law360*, July 17, 2019

“Digital Marketing and Big Data – Managing Fair Lending Risk,” *The Review of Banking & Financial Services*, November 2018

“Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Update,” *Skadden’s 2018 Insights*, January 2018

“Mitigating Third-Party Relationship Risk in the Consumer Financial Services Industry,” *Risk & Compliance Magazine*, October-December 2017

“CFPB Pursues Aggressive Enforcement Agenda and Arbitration Restrictions,” *NY Business Law Journal*, Summer 2016 and *Skadden’s 2016 Insights — Financial Regulation*, January 2016

“Managing Third-Party Compliance Risk in Consumer Financial Services,” *The Review of Banking & Financial Services*, Vol. 32, No. 3, March 2016

“Limited English Proficiency: An Emerging Compliance Risk,” *Skadden’s 2016 Insights — Financial Regulation*, January 2016

“CFPB Pursues Aggressive Enforcement Agenda and Arbitration Restrictions,” *NY Business Law Journal*, Summer 2016 and *Skadden’s 2016 Insights — Financial Regulation*, January 2016

“CFPB Eyes Arbitration Agreements, Limited English Proficiency,” *Law360*, November 13, 2015

“Significant CFPB Developments Relating to Arbitration Agreements and Limited English Proficiency Consumers,” *Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP*, October 14, 2015

“Supreme Court May Nix Disparate Impact in Fair Lending Enforcement,” *Skadden’s 2015 Insights*, January 2015

“Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Focuses on Fair Lending,” *Skadden’s 2014 Insights*, January 2014

Broad Reach of the ‘Credit’ Laws and Potential Compliance Pitfalls,” *The Review of Banking and Financial Services*, December 2013

“CFPB Finalizes Sweeping New Mortgage Servicing Rule,” *CMBA Legal News*, Spring 2013

“‘Leveling the Playing Field’: Implications of CFPB Authority Over Non-Depository Financial Institutions,” *Antitrust*, Vol. 27, No. 2, Spring 2013

“Financial Regulation,” *Skadden’s 2013 Insights*, January 2013

Speeches

“The Dark Side of Digital Ads: Are Consumers Online for Risk?,” *CBA Live 2020*, September 29-October 1, 2020

“Evolving Challenges in the Fintech Space: Fair Lending, True Lender, Accessibility, and Automated Payment Litigation,” *ACI Consumer Finance Class Actions, Litigation & Government Enforcement Actions Conference*, September 22-23, 2020

“CRA and Fair Lending Interplay – How the New CRA Rules May Influence Fair Lending Analysis,” *Marquis Virtual User’s Conference*, September 14-15, 2020

“Machine Learning and Digital Marketing,” *Skadden’s 28th Annual Conference on Fair Lending and Consumer Financial Protection*, Washington, D.C., April 20, 2020

“Can CRA Save Rural America? Filling the Gaps in the Definition of Assessment Area,” *Wolters Kluwer CRA and Fair Lending Colloquium*, Orlando, November 11, 2019

“Responding to Internally Identified Compliance Issues,” and “Digital Marketing and Alternative Data,” *Skadden’s 27th Annual Conference on Fair Lending and Consumer Financial Protection*, Washington, D.C., April 8, 2019

“HUD Disparate Impact Proposed Rule,” *Women in Housing and Finance Presentation*, Washington, D.C., October 11, 2018

“Fintech – ‘True Lender’ and Fair Lending Issues,” *30th National Advanced Forum on Consumer Finance*, Chicago, July 17, 2018

“Digital Marketing, Big Data and Fintech,” *Skadden’s 26th Annual Fair Lending Conference*, Washington, D.C., April 16, 2018

“Lending Innovation and Navigation Regulation,” *Developments in the FinTech Regulatory Environment*, Palo Alto, October 12, 2017

“Updates in Auto Lending” and “Sales Practices Risk,” *Skadden’s 25th Annual Fair Lending Conference*, Washington, D.C., April 24, 2017

“Heightened Focus on Fair Lending/Fair Servicing,” *ACI 6th Bank & Non-Bank Forum on Mortgage Servicing Compliance*, Washington, D.C., November 30, 2016

“Emerging Issues,” *ACI 26th National Conference on Consumer Finance Class Actions & Litigation*, Chicago, July 29, 2016

“HDMA and the Community Reinvestment Act,” *Skadden’s 24th Annual Fair Lending Conference*, Washington, D.C., April 11, 2016