



## Tanisha Palvia

PARTNER

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Splitting her time between Charlotte and Greensboro, Tanisha Palvia represents individuals and organizations facing governmental investigations, white-collar criminal charges, and civil litigation. She is particularly successful in conducting internal investigations given her experience as a former Assistant District Attorney in Manhattan. She is also well-versed in civil and criminal proceedings and has extensive bench and jury trial experience.

### INTERNAL INVESTIGATIONS

Tanisha works with clients conducting internal investigations in response to civil litigation or governmental inquiry. She draws upon nearly a decade of experience conducting investigations, which includes reviewing thousands of documents per case and interviewing thousands of witnesses of all ages and backgrounds, including law enforcement officers of all ranks. Tanisha has investigated a variety of issues, including sexual harassment claims, discrimination claims, and claims of financial malfeasance.

Tanisha has particular experience with investigating claims of sexual abuse and violent crimes and uses that experience to help employers in an array of industries navigate the complex and sensitive issues related to these claims.

### WHITE-COLLAR CRIMINAL DEFENSE

A former New York Assistant District Attorney, Tanisha has significant experience on both sides of the courtroom. She brings a unique understanding of the prosecutorial process to bear for clients, whom she defends against a myriad of white-collar criminal charges. Tanisha also represents individuals and organizations facing governmental investigations and administrative hearings, using her experience as a prosecutor to inform her strategies for advising clients in how to respond to achieve the best possible outcome.

## CIVIL LITIGATION

Tanisha also represents individuals and businesses in civil matters at the state and federal level. She has particular interest in civil matters with criminal law overlap.

## EXPERIENCE

### Internal Investigations:

Tanisha has internally investigated sensitive criminal, civil, and employment matters on behalf of a variety of clients who are seeking to avoid further complications in the future. These clients have included major universities, a variety of businesses, including medical and dental practices, banks, and startups, and public and private schools. She has investigated allegations of healthcare fraud, corporate embezzlement and fraud, discrimination and harassment, nepotism, undue influence, and child sex abuse.

### Criminal Litigation:

Tanisha was an Assistant District Attorney in Manhattan for five years, where she:

- Investigated and prosecuted numerous cases ranging from misdemeanors to a variety of felonies, including sex crimes, financial frauds, and homicide, from charging stage through jury trial and sentencing.
- Served as first Attorney-in-Charge of Animal Cruelty Unit, working closely with the NYPD and the ASPCA in prosecuting these cases.

While in private practice, Tanisha has defended clients against the government in matters, including:

- Represented small business on allegations of IRS fraud. The investigation was closed by IRS-criminal with no charges being filed.
- On behalf of dental practice, investigated and responded to allegations of false claims act violations, resulting in a favorable settlement with no charges brought against the practice.
- On behalf of small business, investigated internal business processes and developed compliance policy to protect business from federal allegations of selling stolen products. No charges were filed.
- Represented a prominent political figure charged with alleged bribery, conspiracy, and false statements, resulting in the dismissal of the bribery, conspiracy, and two false statement counts and a probationary sentence for the remaining count, which was terminated early by a

presidential pardon.

### Complex Civil Litigation:

- Successfully advocated on behalf of a private university in a federal wrongful death lawsuit.
- Represented estate of individual in wrongful death lawsuit resulting in favorable settlement.
- Represented tenant who was unlawfully evicted from her apartment, resulting in favorable settlement after successful jury verdict in favor of client.

### State and Federal Criminal Defense:

- Representation of individual charged with gun possession, resulting in dismissal of charge after completion of diversionary program.
- Representation on compassionate release motion, resulting in grant of motion and reduction of client's sentence.
- Representation of individual charged with felony assault, resulting in favorable misdemeanor plea and no jail time.
- Representation of individual charged with conspiracy to distribute cocaine, resulting in favorable plea and sentence.

## SERVICES

Complex Business Litigation

Internal Investigations & Compliance

Education

Federal Litigation

Litigation

White Collar Defense & Investigations

## CREDENTIALS

### Clerkships

Law Clerk to the Honorable Robert N. Hunter, Jr., North Carolina Court of Appeals, 2011-2012

### Honors & Recognitions

Member, North Carolina Pro Bono Honor Society (2021)

Recognized in *Benchmark Litigation* on their “40 & Under List” (2023)

### Education

**Emory University School of Law**, J.D., 2011, Emory Moot Court Society; Director of Student Legal Services; Pro-Bono Publico Award

**University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**, B.A., 2008, Robertson Scholar; Staff Writer, *The Daily Tar Heel*

### Admissions

New York

North Carolina

U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit

U.S. District Court for the Western, Middle, and Eastern Districts of North Carolina

### Languages

Hindi

### PROFESSIONAL & CIVIC

Board of Directors, Charlotte Asian Pacific American Bar Association (2021-present)

Member, Women's White Collar Defense Association

Member, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

Member, North Carolina Bar Association

Member, Mecklenburg Bar Association

Volunteer, North Carolina Bar Foundation and Legal Aid of North Carolina's Lawyer on the Line Program

## ABOUT ME

While I was a prosecutor, I had the good fortune to take a class called “Inside Criminal Justice” by the Institute for Innovation in Prosecution at John Jay College with other prosecutors from the Manhattan D.A.’s Office and numerous incarcerated individuals. Together, my classmates and I engaged in complicated discussions about the criminal justice system, including its flaws, and authored joint policy proposals to help improve that system. I walked out of that class with a deep desire to help those affected by that system and am happy to report that I am now doing just that. While that is not all I do, even conducting internal and governmental investigations allows me to help others avoid the consequences of the criminal justice system. And my experiences with these types of cases, including in the courtroom—where I love to be, help me excel at civil litigation as well.

Apart from work, I love spending time with my family. Whether we have impromptu dance parties in the living room, are baking a cake, or are out discovering a new hiking trail, I enjoy creating memories with them. We are so happy to have left the hustle and bustle of NYC and to be home in Charlotte, closer to all the grandparents too. Now if only I could get my kids to sleep at night...

## NEWSROOM

### News

*Benchmark Litigation* Recognizes 16 Brooks Pierce Attorneys  
10.13.2022

*Business North Carolina* Publishes Article on Brooks Pierce’s White Collar Defense and Investigations Practice  
09.07.2022

Tanisha Palvia Named CLE Co-Chair for North Carolina Bar Association Criminal Justice Section Council  
08.16.2022

Fourth Circuit Affirms Summary Judgment for Wake Forest University in Wrongful Death Action  
06.20.2022

Brooks Pierce Attorneys Give Back: Ten Recognized by the North Carolina Supreme Court for Pro Bono Work  
06.20.2022

### Speaking Engagements

Tanisha Palvia Presents North Carolina Bar Association CLE Program  
11.30.2021

Tanisha Palvia Presents at 2021 Festival of Legal Learning  
02.05.2021

Eric Fletcher and Tanisha Palvia Present Webinar on 2020 Election Discussions in the Workplace  
10.09.2020

Brooks Pierce Attorneys Present Webinar on 2020 Election Discussions in the Workplace with Guilford Medical and Dental Managers Association  
05.27.2020

### Publications

Government Investigation of COVID-19-Related Fraud in North Carolina Continues  
08.25.2022

How to Conduct an Effective Remote Deposition  
06.02.2021

Top Officials at Massachusetts Veterans' Home Face Significant Prison Time Based on COVID-19 Outbreak that Occurred on their Watch  
09.30.2020

White House Memo Emphasizes Ideals of Fairness in Civil Investigations Conducted by Federal Agencies  
09.23.2020

Owner and Managers of Health Care Practice Pay \$900,000 to Resolve False Claims Act Lawsuit  
09.10.2020