

Simon Gaugush's Biography

Simon Gaugush is an attorney with the law firm of Carlton Fields in Tampa, Florida. He focuses his practice on white-collar criminal defense, opioid-related litigation, corporate internal investigations, cyber offenses, False Claims Act (qui tam) cases, and complex civil litigation.

From January 2008 through September 2019, Mr. Gaugush served as a federal prosecutor in the Criminal Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Florida. During the first half of his 11 ½-year career with the U.S. Attorney's Office, Mr. Gaugush served as a federal prosecutor in the Ft. Myers Office and in the Organized Crime Section, Economic Crimes Section, and Asset Forfeiture Division in the Tampa Office. During the second half of his career, Mr. Gaugush served as the chief of the General Crimes Section, Major Crimes Section, and Economic Crimes Section in the Tampa Office. Ultimately, from May 2018 through September 2019, Mr. Gaugush served as the Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division. As the Deputy Criminal Chief, Mr. Gaugush was responsible for 85 federal prosecutors in the Middle District of Florida.

During his tenure at the U.S. Attorney's Office, Mr. Gaugush personally prosecuted and oversaw investigations and prosecutions of crimes related to all types of white-collar offenses (including health care, tax, mortgage, bankruptcy, wire, mail, securities, access device, and program fraud), pill mills and opioid-related cases, money laundering, cybercrime, obstruction of justice, international and domestic drug trafficking, large-scale immigration fraud, child exploitation, public corruption, and civil rights matters.

Within the Department of Justice, Mr. Gaugush is known for his experience investigating and prosecuting medical personnel for overprescribing opioids and other controlled substances. Mr. Gaugush authored a manual for the U.S. Department of Justice entitled, "Investigating and Prosecuting Physicians and Pharmacists for Dispensing and Distributing Controlled Substances Outside the Course of Professional Practice." This manual is commonly referred to in the DOJ as the bible for opioid prosecutions and introduced the concept of "red flags" for identifying pill mills.

Mr. Gaugush has conducted formal training sessions and regularly advised federal prosecutors and agents around the country in how to investigate and prosecute opioid offenses. During his time as the chief of the General Crimes and Major Crimes Sections in the Tampa Office, Mr. Gaugush monitored investigations of physicians and pharmacists. As the chief of the Economic Crimes Section, Mr. Gaugush supervised the federal prosecutors in the office's Opioid Fraud and Abuse Detection Unit. In February 2018, Mr. Gaugush met with former Attorney General Jeff Sessions, then Chief of Staff Matthew Whitaker, and then Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi to provide an overview of pill mill prosecutions in Florida and an accelerated approach to such investigations.

Prior to his career at the U.S. Attorney's Office, Mr. Gaugush worked as an associate at the law firm of Zuckerman Spaeder LLP in Tampa and he served as an Assistant Chief

Counsel for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of Chief Counsel in Miami, Florida and Arlington, Virginia.