

Top Women of Law 2022



SUZANNE E. DURRELL

Managing Member

Whistleblower Law Collaborative, BOSTON

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER

Over the course of her more than 40-year career, Suzanne E. Durrell has made a name for herself as one of the nation's leading whistleblower attorneys, recovering billions for the government.

She began her career in litigation at the Attorney General's Office and found herself spending the bulk of her time defending the government. When the office began an effort to root out fraud on the government in an effort to be more proactive with its litigation, Durrell found her calling.

After she moved to the U.S. Attorney's Office in 1989, she promptly fell in love with the False Claims Act. As an Assistant U.S. Attorney, Deputy Chief and Chief of the Civil Division, she supervised and prosecuted the burgeoning qui tam and False Claims Act cases, helping the Boston office become a national leader in FCA cases. She also spent a year in Washington, D.C. as a Deputy Associate Attorney General, working to develop nationwide strategies and policies for the Department of Justice.

In 2003, working in collaboration with Robert Thomas, she launched what is today Whistleblower Law Collaborative, keeping her focus on whistleblowers while moving to private practice.

"I realized I was in love with [the FCA]," she says. "I'm so impressed with what you can do with it and the practice area is constantly evolving, so there is a lot of room for evolution."

Over the last almost 20 years, her firm has helped the government recover more than \$6.5 billion.

"My favorite part of the job is really helping the client and at the same time, helping the government and the taxpayers," she says. "We have people coming to us who are very distressed and in some of the hardest situations of their lives. I like helping them through that."

Durrell is active with Taxpayers Against Fraud Education Fund as a member of the Annual Conference Committee, the COVID-19 Anti-Fraud Task Force and chair of the subcommittee on Pharmaceuticals, Biologics and Device Fraud.