

Kobie Flowers



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Practice Areas

Civil Litigation; Criminal Defense; School Sexual Misconduct Proceedings; Trials

Profile

Kobie Flowers joined Brown, Goldstein & Levy in October, 2016, after managing his own small firm in Washington, DC.

Kobie is, first and foremost, a trial lawyer, with nearly 20 years of courtroom experience. He specializes in representing individuals and businesses in complex criminal and civil matters. His first-chair trial experience in building cases for the government as a federal civil rights prosecutor and in fighting the government's efforts as an assistant federal public defender (AFPD) provides him with an uncommon insight into trial practice. In both roles, Kobie was trained in and maintained the highest standards of trial advocacy. He brings that tradition of excellence to the private practice of law.

As a member of the Attorney General's Honors Program, Kobie was a civil rights prosecutor at the United States Department of Justice for over four years. There, he conducted complex grand jury investigations involving fraud, false statements, obstruction of justice, and perjury charges as aspects of enforcing federal criminal civil rights statutes. While at the Department, he specialized in the prosecution of police brutality cases. Kobie was one of the prosecutors who successfully tried the largest case against federal correctional officers in the history of the Civil Rights Division. For that effort, he earned the Civil Rights Division's Special Commendation for Outstanding Service. Kobie never lost a case as a federal civil rights prosecutor.

After his tenure as a federal civil rights prosecutor, Kobie sought out the challenge of defending against federal prosecutions as an AFPD in Baltimore. As an AFPD, Kobie successfully represented clients charged with federal felonies, including fraud, false statements, obstruction of justice, bribery, tax, and perjury charges. Kobie won two-thirds of the cases he defended at trial. When trial was not in the client's best interest, Kobie navigated through the demands of the government and obtained numerous favorable, pre-verdict outcomes for his clients, including dismissals of cases.

Following his government service, Kobie entered private practice and focused on complex commercial litigation. As a lawyer at a large international law firm, he assisted corporate clients with investigations involving the False Claims Act, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, and federal securities laws. He also handled mass toxic tort litigation at a leading plaintiff's firm.

Kobie has litigated cases in federal and state courts throughout the United States and internationally in the military commissions in Guantanamo Bay as a criminal defense lawyer.

Kobie has taught the art and science of trial lawyering all over the United States, including at the National Criminal Defense College, the Bronx Defenders, and Harvard Law School.

Before starting his legal career, Kobie served in the United States Peace Corps as a volunteer in Ivory Coast from 1995 to 1997.

Government Service

- Assistant Federal Public Defender, Maryland, 2004-2007
- Federal Prosecutor, U.S. Justice Department, Civil Rights Division, Criminal Section, 2000-2004
- U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer, Ivory Coast, 1995-1997

Education

- Georgetown University Law Center, J.D., 2000
- Stanford University, B.A., 1994

Representative Cases

- Obtained dismissal of a sexual assault charge filed against a world-renowned infectious disease expert.
- Obtained acquittal for tenured microbiology professor charged with two counts of sexual assault.
- Obtained acquittal for client charged with unlawfully possessing a firearm.
- Obtained dismissal of drug trafficking charges against client by obtaining a hung jury and persuading the government to decline to retry the case.
- Secured release of child soldier from Guantanamo Bay prison.
- Obtained favorable settlement for trauma surgeon in whistleblower and defamation trial against Louisiana State University.
- Persuaded an inspector general to terminate investigation of a federal employee allegedly involved in international government contracting fraud.
- Persuaded federal prosecutors to decline prosecution of a twenty-year veteran of a major law enforcement agency after multi-year and multi-agency federal fraud investigation.
- Obtained favorable settlement against federal government agency for discriminating against and defaming an employee.
- Obtained favorable settlement in representation of stockbroker in a Financial Industry Regulatory Authority arbitration against Citigroup.
- Obtained dismissal of claims filed against three Department of Justice (DOJ) lawyers in lawsuit filed by former DOJ lawyer.
- Represented client freed by the federal government as part of the historic seven-prisoner swap between Iran and the United States.

Honors

- "Top Lawyer" for Criminal Defense, *Washingtonian* magazine, 2017 - present
- "AV Preeminent" highest peer review rating by Martindale-Hubbell, 2014 - present
- National Black Lawyers Top 100, Washington, DC, 2014 - present
- "Super Lawyer" for White-Collar Criminal Defense, Washington, DC, *Super Lawyers* magazine, 2013 - present
- National Trial Lawyers Top 100, Washington, DC, 2013 - present
- Commendation for Service at Federal Public Defender's Office, D. Md., 2007
- U.S. Justice Department, Civil Rights Division, Special Commendation for Outstanding Service, 2003
- U.S. Justice Department, Civil Rights Division, Performance Award, 2003
- U.S. Justice Department, Civil Rights Division, Assistant Attorney General's Letter of Commendation, 2002

Activities

- National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Board Member
- Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project, Board Member
- Federal Bar Association, D. Md., Board Member
- D.C. Circuit Judicial Conference, Member
- Litigation Counsel of America, Fellow

Presentations

- In April 2018, Kobie will present "Litigating Traffic Stops & Auto Searches" at the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Spring Meeting & Seminar: "Search, Seizure & Criminal Litigation," New York, NY.
- In April 2018, Kobie presented "Integrating Implicit Bias into Defense Practice" at the Maryland Law Journal of Race, Religion, Gender & Class Spring Symposium, University of Maryland Carey School of Law.
- In September 2017, Kobie taught a one-week trial lawyering course at Harvard Law School, covering the entire anatomy of a trial.
- In July 2017, Kobie taught a five-day trial practice course at the National Criminal Defense College (NCDC), instructing other criminal defense attorneys on subjects including case theory, case theme, opening statements, closing arguments, voir dire, direct examination, and cross-examination. For the second consecutive year, Kobie presented the cross-examination demonstration. The NCDC faculty consists of some of the best trial lawyers in the country.
- In April 2017, Kobie taught cross-examination skills at the Bronx Defenders in New York City. The Bronx Defenders is one of the premier public defender offices in the United States. Kobie joined some of the best criminal defense attorneys in private practice and public service to teach "Cross Better: Advanced Skills for the Experienced Practitioner."
- In January 2017, Kobie was honored to be a guest lecturer for Professor Roger Fairfax's "Adjudicatory Criminal Procedure" class at George Washington Law School. During the class, Kobie shared strategies for winning federal detention hearings and preliminary hearings.
- In October 2016, Kobie participated on the panel "The Challenges of Race in Representation" sponsored by the National Association for Criminal Defense Lawyers.
- In July 2016, Kobie taught trial practice at the National Criminal Defense College (NCDC). For five days, Kobie instructed other criminal defense attorneys on subjects including case theory, case theme, opening statements, closing arguments, voir dire, direct examination, and cross-examination. Kobie presented the cross-examination demonstration, which the students rated the highest among all presentations. The NCDC faculty consists of some of the best trial lawyers in the country.
- In June 2016, Kobie participated on a panel at the New America's Open Technology Institute. The discussion "Hacking America" centered on the proposed and unconstitutional changes to Rule 41 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, which would violate the Fourth Amendment's protection against government hacking into the computers of innocent Americans.
- In April 2016, Kobie was honored to be included among the very experienced and highly skilled faculty of the Federal Criminal Justice Act Trial Skills Academy (TSA) in San Diego, California. At the five-day TSA, the faculty lead participants through a series of plenary sessions and workshops, centered on trial advocacy. The goal of the TSA is simple – teach and improve the science and art of high-end, trial lawyering.
- In March 2016, Kobie taught cross-examination skills at the Bronx Defenders in New York City. The Bronx Defenders is one of the premier public defender offices in the United States. Kobie joined some of the best criminal defense attorneys in private practice and public service.
- In February 2016, Kobie participated on the panel "Hallowed Grounds: Justice in the 21st Century" as part of the 2016 Black History Month Program at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia, focusing on police accountability.
- In July 2015, Kobie taught trial practice at the National Criminal Defense College (NCDC). For five days, Kobie instructed other criminal defense attorneys on subjects including case theory, case theme, opening statements, voir dire and cross-examination. The NCDC faculty includes some of the best trial lawyers in the country.
- In February 2014, the Stanford Black Alumni Association invited Kobie to participate in a panel discussion considering "Perspectives on the Criminal Justice System."