

BigLaw Insider Trading Defendants Have Big-Name Legal Help

By **Chris Villani**

Law360 (June 3, 2026, 4:54 PM EDT) -- An insider trading case involving nonpublic information prosecutors say was stolen from some of the largest law firms in the U.S. has ensnared more than two dozen defendants, many of whom have turned to lawyers with notable clients including Donald Trump, Harvey Weinstein and Luigi Mangione.

Numerous lawyers, including mainstays in the Boston white collar defense bar, have already entered appearances on the dockets of the two cases stemming from a pair of indictments. Prosecutors say the scheme was spearheaded by Nicolo Nourafchan, who worked at Sidley Austin LLP, Latham & Watkins LLP and Goodwin Procter LLP, and by Robert Yadgarov, a personal injury lawyer.

The government says Nourafchan tipped off others about deals his firms were working on and also brought in former law school classmates who were working at Wachtell Lipton Rosen & Katz and Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP to do the same with deals involving their firms' clients.

Several attorneys representing the defendants have already appeared in court, as their clients were arraigned before a U.S. magistrate judge in Boston this week. A source also told Law360 that BigLaw firms are vying behind the scenes to represent some of the firms identified as victims in the charging documents.

Here are some of the notable attorneys who are part of the sweeping case so far.

Martin Weinberg of Martin G. Weinberg Law

Representing Nicolo Nourafchan is Weinberg, a veteran defense attorney with numerous high-profile cases on his résumé. Weinberg represented three defendants in the "Varsity Blues" college admissions case.

He's also represented a former State Street Corp. executive who was convicted in 2018 of stealing millions from clients by sneaking in undisclosed fees on massive transactions, and Insys Therapeutics Inc. founder John Kapoor.

Some of his notable victories include a case involving the owner of a large architectural firm who was accused of participating in a kickback scheme, the First Circuit reversal of the conviction of a pharmaceutical salesman over an improper jury form, and the acquittal of a businessman on charges in a corruption case involving former Massachusetts Speaker of the House Salvatore DiMasi.

Brian Kelly of Nixon Peabody LLP

Kelly leads a Nixon Peabody team representing Yadgarov. Before going into private practice, Kelly was well-known for prosecuting notorious mobster James "Whitey" Bulger while an assistant U.S. attorney. He represented a parent in the college admissions case and had a trial conviction vacated by the First Circuit.

Kelly was also a member of Kapoor's legal team, represented Thornton Law LLP in a yearslong billable hours investigation, and successfully defended gambling magnate Steve Wynn against racketeering claims brought by a Boston racetrack. Kelly has also worked for the city of Boston on multiple cases and successfully defended an MIT professor against grant fraud charges stemming

from his alleged failure to disclose work with groups linked to the Chinese government.

Michael Kendall of White & Case LLP

Another former federal prosecutor, Kendall is representing Joseph Suskind, a Florida insurance adjuster who the government says made \$3 million by receiving tips of ill-gotten information.

Kendall was part of the "Varsity Blues" case and saw a trial conviction for the parent he represented largely wiped out by the First Circuit.

Kendall previously represented a J.P. Morgan foreign exchange trader who was accused by the U.S. Treasury Department of manipulating markets with other traders through a chatroom, a case the government ultimately dropped. He was part of the Insys case as well, both the blockbuster trial and the subsequent appeal before the First Circuit.

Steven Yurowitz of YurowitzLaw PLLC

Yurowitz, who is representing Mark Fensterszaub, was on the team that defended Donald Trump in the New York state cases, where he was convicted of 34 counts of falsifying business records. Yurowitz also argued before the U.S. Supreme Court in 2024 in a case concerning forfeiture deadlines.

Jacob Kaplan of Agnifilo Intrater LLP

Kaplan is representing Yechiel Salzberg in the insider trading matter, and is part of the team defending Luigi Mangione, who is accused of killing the CEO of UnitedHealthcare. He also represented a defendant charged in a \$100 million market manipulation scheme involving a small New Jersey deli.

Steven Boozang

Lorenzo Nourafchan, who faces charges and is footing the bill for his brother Nicolo's defense, has retained Boozang. Boozang defended a parent charged in the "Varsity Blues" case and a defendant charged in a Designer Shoe Warehouse insider trading scheme. Outside the white collar sphere, Boozang represented notorious Mafia boss Francis "Cadillac Frank" Salemme in his 2018 federal murder trial.

David Chesnoff

Also representing Lorenzo Nourafchan is Chesnoff, who was part of the "Varsity Blues" cases and represented a former FBI informant accused of making fake criminal accusations against President Joe Biden and his son Hunter Biden.

Mark Werksman of Werksman Jackson & Quinn LLP

David Makary has brought in Werksman, who previously represented onetime Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein in his 2022 rape trial. Werksman also represented a former Girardi Keese attorney who pled guilty to criminal contempt in Illinois federal court for his role in the firm's failure to pay millions in client settlement funds to relatives of victims killed in the crash of Lion Air Flight 610.

Brad Bailey

Makary also hired Bailey, a well-known Boston criminal defense lawyer who represented Christian Karl Gerhartsreiter, who claimed to be Clark Rockefeller, in a headline-grabbing 1990s murder trial. Bailey's other clients include a former Massachusetts state treasurer charged with corruption — a case that ended in a mistrial.

Glenn MacKinlay of McCarter & English LLP

David Moradi has MacKinlay in his corner. MacKinlay represented JetBlue in an antitrust case over a planned partnership with American Airlines as well as witnesses from the University of Southern California in the "Varsity Blues" case. He is also representing a Massachusetts State Police recruiter

charged in the death of a cadet. He spent 17 years as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Boston office.

Sara Silva of Silva Kettlewell & Pignatelli LLP

Silva is representing Pedram Fejal, who is among those accused of receiving stock tips with information about nonpublic deals. Formerly of Hogan Lovells, Silva has been involved in high-profile cases including two indicted Boston City Hall aides and a \$490 million False Claims Act case in Minnesota.

Aaron Katz of Aaron Katz Law LLC

Brian Fensterszaub is being represented by Katz, another attorney who was involved in the Insys case in Boston in 2019 and the college admissions case that broke that same year. He successfully defended a BP engineer charged in connection with the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Before starting his own practice, he spent nearly two decades at Ropes & Gray LLP.

Nicholas Rosenberg of Gardner & Rosenberg PC

Simon Fensterzaub is represented by Rosenberg, who represented a couple in a \$20 million lawsuit against JPMorgan Chase Bank NA over bad investments and a jilted bride seeking to hold on to a \$70,000 Tiffany diamond engagement ring in a suit that went to Massachusetts' top appellate court.

Others

Other defense attorneys with significant white collar experience who have entered an appearance in the two cases are Ryan DiSantis of Troutman Pepper Locke LLP, Matthew Thompson of Butters Brazilian LLP, Barry Pollack of Pollack Solomon Duffy LLP, Michael J. Callanan, Robert Goldstein and Greg Friedholm.

The cases are U.S. v. Fejal et al., case number 1:26-cr-10133, and U.S. v. Nourafchan et al., case number 1:26-cr-10115, in the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts.

--Editing by Karin Roberts.