

THE REVIEW OF  
**SECURITIES & COMMODITIES  
REGULATION**

AN ANALYSIS OF CURRENT LAWS AND REGULATIONS  
AFFECTING THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES INDUSTRIES

Vol. 55 No. 11 June 8, 2022

## POST-COVID CORPORATE ANTI-CORRUPTION ENFORCEMENT: READY FOR LIFTOFF?

*Examining pronouncements, policies, and other developments, the authors are left with little doubt that anti-corruption enforcement remains a top priority for the U.S. and its international partners. In this article, after a brief retrospective, the authors discuss certain of these developments, and then consider some of the questions that will affect anti-corruption enforcement as a result. They conclude by highlighting certain steps companies can take to be prepared for an upward trend in cross-border anti-corruption enforcement.*

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Recent policy pronouncements and initiatives in the United States and a continued emphasis on expanding and exploiting international enforcement partnerships, suggest that the downturn in corporate anti-corruption enforcement in 2021 will prove to be an outlier rather than a trend. Cooperation among international enforcement bodies and the pace of their enforcement efforts are expected to increase as COVID-19 becomes endemic in many parts of the world. This increase will necessitate a renewed focus on how a variety of challenging issues are confronted by targeted companies as they conduct internal investigations and engage with domestic and international enforcement authorities.

### I. A BRIEF RETROSPECTIVE: 2021 ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

Relative to the years before it, 2021 was a slow year for corporate anti-corruption enforcement in the U.S. Slowdowns and headwinds arose in some key overseas jurisdictions as well.

#### A. U.S. Enforcement in 2021

The U.S. Department of Justice (“DOJ”) brought only three Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (“FCPA”) corporate enforcement actions in 2021, each of which was

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