



akrivis | LAW  
GROUP  
P L C

WASHINGTON D.C.

From Washington  
To The World

# \ Ak-ri-vis \

The word Akrivis means “precise” in Greek, and precision lies as the cornerstone of our practice, focus, and attention to clients.

***A commitment to provide the highest quality legal expertise, personalized service, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness to clients around the world.***

Based in Washington, DC, Akrivis Law Group, PLLC is committed to providing its clients with superior legal expertise and outstanding professional service on par with what they may expect at a large AmLaw100 firm, but with a personal touch and affordability more expected of a focused, boutique law firm.

Our attorneys are graduates of prominent law schools and have years of experience at some of the world’s most prestigious and largest law firms, where we worked on and led numerous multi-faceted, complex and high profile transactions and legal matters. All of our lawyers have international experience, and we maintain close relationships with outside experts who assist us when required.

Akrivis currently represents clients from around the United States and the world, ranging from major multinational corporations to startup entities to high net worth individuals.

Akrivis’s key practice areas are:

- Sanctions & Trade Regulatory
- White Collar Sanctions Defense & Corporate Investigations
- FCPA & Anti-Corruption
- Banking & Finance
- International Tax and Offshore Compliance
- Business & International Commerce

With extensive experience in each of these areas, Akrivis provides its corporate and individual clients with elegant, optimal solutions to their sophisticated issues. Our size allows us to offer personalized attention, while our focus and depth of experience enable us to handle exceptionally complex matters for our most sophisticated and demanding clients with ease.

Effectiveness, depth, perspective, creativity, agility, and efficiency. At Akrivis Law Group, there is no need to have to sacrifice any of these for the others. Welcome.

**Farhad R. Alavi**  
Managing Partner

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# Sanctions & Trade Regulatory

Navigating the labyrinth of sanctions and trade regulations can be a challenge for multinational corporations all the way to private individuals. Whether you are seeking an Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) or Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) license to export certain commodities, or have customs regulation issues, Akrivis Law Group can help you every step along the way, covering compliance and enforcement.

## Sanctions, Export Controls & State Department Licensing

Akrivis regularly advises industrial, manufacturing, and trade firms, as well as high net worth individuals around the world on this increasingly relevant issue. From our Washington office, our fingers are constantly on the pulse of this ever-changing area of law. Globally, we are well-positioned to help you meet your sanctions and export control compliance and enforcement needs, such as:

- **International Internal Compliance Programs**
- **Obtaining Specific Licenses for Transactions with Sanctioned Countries**
- **Specially Designated Nationals (SDN) List Removal**
- **Civil Enforcement Matters**
- **International Funds / Wire Transfer Issues**
- **Criminal Defense Arising from Alleged U.S. Sanctions and Export Control Violations**

Our sanctions practice covers a broad spectrum, and although our work with Iran sanctions is particularly well-known, we work diligently to assist you with all licensing matters, be it a petition to unblock funds, the sale of permitted and permissible goods to sanctioned countries, or engaging in charitable and educational activities in Cuba, Sudan or Syria, and other matters. Beyond licensing and compliance, we represent clients on all facets of enforcement, including criminal defense litigation.

Complementing our OFAC and BIS practice, we can also advise on exports falling under the jurisdiction of the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR) and apply for licenses from the U.S. Department of State's Directorate of Defense Trade Controls (DDTC).

## Customs Regulations

Customs matters have become highly relevant in the increasingly global economy. The United States maintains sophisticated laws and regulations on issues ranging from inbound Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQ) to Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) classifications to enforcement matters and seizures. As such, effective counseling on Customs can make the difference between whether your business moves forward smoothly and boldly or whether your goods get stuck at the ports.



# White Collar, Sanctions Defense & Corporate Investigations

Akrivis Law Group's attorneys have a wealth of experience representing clients in white collar defense matters at the federal and state levels. Government investigations can quickly lead to criminal investigations and prosecutions for companies and individuals where regulators and prosecutors interpret the facts surrounding regulatory violations to be clear, regardless of whether such actions were intentional or innocent. As such, we can work to mitigate exposure to liability and defend against prosecution.

Akrivis represents clients in a host of white collar matters before government agencies and the courts concerning corporate fraud or other non-compliance allegations or regulatory violations, drawing on our very strong sanctions, export control, and general trade compliance background. Our trade and sanctions compliance practice and experience enables us to provide competent representation on U.S. PATRIOT Act, Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), trade sanctions investigations, and all litigation matters.



We can assist clients with criminal defense in securities, mail and wire fraud, insurance fraud, customs and import and export violations, tax fraud, conspiracy, money laundering, health care fraud, and most other matters that have been the focus of white collar investigations. Akrivis's attorneys are intimately experienced with training and compliance programs, investigations, assessments and identification of breaches and advising on compliance decisions arising from those breaches, and with mitigation of losses or defense before regulators and prosecutors.

## **Data Privacy & Cyber Security**

Managing data privacy and security risks is imperative to a corporation's success in nearly every industry today. Navigating compliance is complicated as every industry has unique data protection requirements and challenges. Regulations are vast and overlapping and often touch on related laws that are complex, making the risks are very significant. Akrivis can efficiently assist you with your data privacy and cyber security challenges.

# FCPA & Anti-Corruption

Companies today must give heightened priority to compliance with anti-corruption laws given the increasing tide of federal enforcement of the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). We regularly advise clients in the United States and abroad on their FCPA obligations, including recommending the implementation of preventative measures such as compliance programs. If an enforcement action has begun, we can advise on the investigatory and defense aspects.

Anti-corruption laws, however, are not just an American phenomenon. Being an internationally focused law firm where every one of our lawyers

has experience working overseas, we are able to provide unique insight on matters inherent to global business. As such, our approach on anti-corruption does not stop at the FCPA. Working with our relationships in Europe and the Middle East, we provide a single solution to our clients' global anti-corruption compliance needs, including the United Kingdom's Bribery Act and other directives.

Our attorneys bring together extensive experience working on FCPA matters in a major law firm setting and the federal government. This, with our relationships across the globe in the investigations, accounting, and forensics fields, allows us to provide effective and intelligent advice.

## Compliance Advisory

The best defense to prevent FCPA violations requires awareness and compliance. There is no one-size-fits-all approach. We know what questions to ask and how to make sure you have an FCPA compliance game plan that fits your business and operations. From advising on one-off matters to developing and updating a comprehensive compliance program, we can assist in all such areas, be it within the United States or abroad.

## Investigations and Defense

An effective defense of an FCPA violation allegation should always begin with a thorough but focused investigation. Our white collar experience allows us to lead investigations with an eye to not only identifying what took place, but also taking remedial steps that can act as mitigating factors in defending our clients and also preventing future violations.

Investigation and prosecution for FCPA violations are no longer just a matter for large corporations. Individuals are increasingly finding themselves as targets in such enforcement matters. Our seasoned experience in defending clients for violations of U.S. trade laws before the Department of Justice as well as insight gained by our lawyers in the private and public sector make us well positioned for defending parties from major multinationals down to individual executives.



# Banking & Finance

Akrivis Law Group's Banking & Finance practice unites deep understanding of the laws and regulations impacting the industry with a strong understanding of broader corporate law issues – something companies across the industry, such as financial institutions, private equity groups and borrowers can comfortably rely on.

## Financial Institutions Compliance

As a key component to operating financial institutions, regulatory compliance has never been more critical than now. Ever-changing, complicated laws require counsel that understands the nuances and stringent requirements that are increasingly becoming commonplace in the fabric of international banking and finance.

Akrivis can advise U.S. and foreign financial institutions on integral compliance areas such as:

- **Corporate Governance & Compliance Procedures**
- **Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA)**
- **Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC)**
- **Anti-Money Laundering (AML),  
Bank Secrecy Act (BSA), & U.S. PATRIOT Act**

Our lawyers are well-versed in advising financial institutions, having experience on private bank, central bank, and monetary authority matters. We can work hand-in-hand with you to help develop responsive compliance programs and procedures to help mitigate legal risks.



## Commercial Lending

With substantial corporate experience, we can advise on all facets of commercial lending. With extensive experience in large and small scale financing, our lawyers can help deliver sophisticated, elegant solutions incorporating all critical considerations for domestic and cross-border transactions, even in niche areas like Sharia finance. Most notably, our project, finance, and corporate experience extends into key sectors such as energy and hospitality.

# International Tax & Offshore Compliance

The international business arena has created a highly complex legal tax structure for individuals and corporations who operate across borders. This has fueled an aggressive and hostile civil and criminal enforcement policy by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the U.S. Department of Justice for perceived tax abuse and non-compliance with U.S. tax laws and offshore accounts.

Drawing on our experience, which includes advising on multi-faceted regulatory frameworks, Akrivis represents clients on critical international tax matters. We offer a host of services to clients having an international financial footprint. Our services include counseling on:

- **Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBAR) & the Offshore Voluntary Disclosure Program (OVDP)**
- **Tax Litigation, Arbitration & Advocacy**
- **Enforcement Proceedings & Negotiating Settlements**
- **Cross-Border Disclosure Requests from Tax Authorities**
- **Investigations & Compliance**

# Business & International Commerce

Washington. New York. London. Dubai. Akrivis Law Group can guide your business across the globe. From advising startups to, setting up operations overseas to entering into a private equity joint venture with foreign partners, we can guide you.

Akrivis can assist in the following areas:

- **Business and Corporate Transactions**
- **Startups and Venture-Based Entities**
- **Foreign Investment Business Expansion to the United States**
- **U.S. Business Expansion Overseas**
- **Entity Formation and Maintenance**
- **Non-Profit Organizations**

Effectively counseling on corporate matters does not just require legal knowledge, but an understanding of how businesses function locally and globally.

## **An International Edge**

Our corporate practice is bolstered by our substantial international commercial experience. We have worked with entities doing business around the Middle East, and have particular experience in other critical emerging and frontier markets, such as those of East Asia, Africa, and Latin America.



Our lawyers have experience working on transactions and engaging foreign counsel around the globe, and our foreign language skills and familiarity with the business culture of other regions allow us to better assist our clients prevent misunderstandings and improve efficiency in structuring cross-border transactions. From Washington to the world, drawing on our vast experience and relationships with reputable lawyers and law firms around the globe, Akrivis can help get you where you want to go.

## **Middle East / North Africa (MENA) Practice**

MENA is of particular importance to Akrivis Law Group. We regularly advise entities in the region on U.S. legal issues, and our attorneys have intimate experience with outbound work in the region. The firm's expertise goes hand in hand with our key competence in areas such as business & commerce, energy & projects, trade sanctions and regulations, hospitality, and construction. We are involved in business issues in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region and are continually involved in banking matters related to the UAE and Kuwait.

Furthermore, our sanctions and export controls advisory capacity allows us to advise clients on compliance matters highly relevant to the region, including restrictions and exceptions applicable to Iran.



## Farhad R. Alavi

Mr. Alavi's practice focuses primarily on international and domestic corporate matters and complex trade issues, including U.S. sanctions, export controls, anti-corruption regulations, and compliance, as well as multinational investment, banking and tax matters. He represents clients around the world from major multinationals to small and medium businesses and high net worth individuals. Mr. Alavi previously practiced in several global firms in Washington, including Baker & McKenzie LLP and Holland & Knight LLP, where he also had an appointment in that firm's Abu Dhabi office.

Mr. Alavi has vast experience in U.S. sanctions, export controls, customs, and anti-corruption compliance, and advises clients on related trade enforcement and criminal defense matters, regularly representing clients before OFAC, BIS, and the Department of Justice. His corporate law experience includes international joint venture, distribution, and financing agreements. Mr. Alavi is especially well-versed in issues related to projects and dealings involving key emerging and frontier markets, including China, Latin America, and the Middle East & Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region.

Given his knowledge of U.S. trade regulation and experience, Mr. Alavi is often quoted by media around the world, including *The New York Times*, CNN Money, Bloomberg, *Financial Times*, and *The Wall Street Journal*, and has appeared on the BBC, Al Jazeera English & Arabic, CCTV America, and BBC Persian, among others. He also regularly lectures in the United States and abroad.

Mr. Alavi is a member of the International Bar Association (IBA) and has served multiple terms on the national Board of Directors of the Iranian-American Bar Association (IABA). He is also an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University Law Center.

Managing Partner  
falavi@akrivilaw.com

Bar Admissions:  
District of Columbia  
Maryland

Languages:  
Persian (Farsi)  
Spanish  
German (basic)  
Arabic (basic)

### Education:

LL.M., Banking & Financial Law, Boston University School of Law  
J.D., George Mason University School of Law  
B.A., Economics and International Relations, Tufts University

### Court Admissions:

U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia



## T. Wayne Gray

Mr. Gray represents domestic and foreign clients (private and government) on projects including business, construction, energy/oil & gas/off-shore platforms, technology, aviation/satellite, procurement and services matters, and related matters. Mr. Gray was previously in the Washington office of Holland & Knight LLP, where he also had an appointment in that firm's Abu Dhabi office.

Mr. Gray has extensive experience in reviewing, drafting and negotiating various types of contracts for client projects for the development, design, procurement, construction and provision of services.

Mr. Gray started his legal career as a government lawyer in Vietnam, Germany and Italy and then with the Army Corps of Engineers in Saudi Arabia. After entering private practice, he returned to Saudi Arabia and managed his law firm's Riyadh office. Mr. Gray has lived in Europe, Asia and the Middle East for 14 years and having also traveled and worked in Africa and South America.

Mr. Gray is also a Strategic Advisor to a prominent government and business relations firm also in Washington, DC with international affiliates. Mr. Gray has written and lectured nationally and internationally on construction and contract law matters.

Senior Counsel  
wgray@akrivilaw.com

Bar Admissions:  
District of Columbia  
Virginia

Languages:  
French (basic)  
Italian (basic)  
German (basic)  
Arabic (basic)

### Education:

J.D., University of Virginia School of Law  
B.A., English, Virginia Military Institute

### Court Admissions:

U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia



## Teresa N. Taylor

Ms. Taylor advises corporations and individuals on international tax issues, U.S. trade compliance, and white collar defense. She defends clients before U.S. federal courts, the Department of Justice, and federal agencies involving alleged violations of U.S. trade laws. Before joining Akrivis, Ms. Taylor was a Senior Attorney at the U.S. Department of the Treasury and practiced at Clifford Chance US LLP.

Ms. Taylor's practice includes federal appeals; spearheading corporate investigations; advising and implementing corporate compliance programs; FATCA representation before the Internal Revenue Service (IRS); international tax analyses; trademark; and business immigration.

Ms. Taylor's international human rights work includes participation in the UN Conference on the Establishment of the International Criminal Court, where she assisted in drafting the gender crimes portion of the Statute of the Court and advocated to country delegations on the need for inclusion of gender crimes in the Statute. She additionally founded and served as the Executive Director of a non-profit organization whose mission was to raise awareness of contemporary genocidal atrocities with a focus on the need for justice and accountability under international humanitarian law.

Ms. Taylor is an appointed member to the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, Board on Professional Responsibility, Hearing Committee. The Hearing Committee hears cases concerning attorney disciplinary matters and makes recommendations for discipline to the Board. She has taught as an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University Law Center, the University of Maryland, and other colleges.

### Partner

[ttaylor@akrivislaw.com](mailto:ttaylor@akrivislaw.com)

### Bar Admissions:

District of Columbia  
Maryland  
New York

### Education:

LL.M., International & Comparative Law, Georgetown University Law Center  
J.D., *cum laude*, M.A., International Affairs & Politics, Washington College of Law, American University  
M.A., Liberal Arts, St. John's College  
B.A., English, University of Maryland College Park

### Court Admissions:

U.S. Supreme Court  
U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia  
U.S. Tax Court  
U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia  
U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York  
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York  
U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland



## Eric N. Ubias

Mr. Ubias primary practices in white collar defense and government investigations, particularly in the areas of FCPA, and international trade regulatory matters where he counsels clients on compliance and enforcement matters related to economic sanctions and export controls. His practice also covers business immigration matters and U.S. tax compliance. Before joining Akrivis, Mr. Ubias practiced in the Washington office of Latham & Watkins LLP.

Mr. Ubias has advised private equity portfolio companies and clients in the real estate, retail, and oil and gas industries on anti-corruption diligence for M&A transactions and third party intermediaries and the design and implementation of anti-corruption compliance programs. He has extensive experience in conducting cross-border internal investigations and responding to enforcement actions by the Department of Justice and the Securities Exchange Commission (SEC).

Mr. Ubias has represented various clients in the areas of social justice and public interest law. He is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) and the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA). He is also Co-Chair of the Professional Development Committee for the Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia, an HNBA affiliate.

### Senior Counsel

[eubias@akrivislaw.com](mailto:eubias@akrivislaw.com)

### Bar Admissions:

District of Columbia  
New York

### Education:

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center  
B.A., International Relations, Tufts University

### Languages:

Spanish



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