

Kohn, Kohn & Colapinto



Stephen Kohn

Kohn, Kohn & Colapinto, founded nearly 30 years ago, is one of the oldest firms focused exclusively on representing government and private whistleblowers in big-stakes disputes. "My practice began before many of the key laws existed," Stephen Kohn said. "It's about the opportunity to make a difference."

The firm set records in its representation of Bradley Birkenfeld, a UBS A.G. banker who blew the whistle on thousands of illegal bank accounts held by Americans in Switzerland. After the firm successfully argued that Birkenfeld could qualify for whistleblower protection despite having participated in the fraud, he was awarded \$104 million — the largest federal whistleblower award in history. The case also prompted Switzerland to modify its tax treaty with the United States and release the names of Americans with illegal bank accounts in the country.

"Everything we did in that case set precedent," Kohn said.

Former Federal Bureau of Investigation agent Fred Whitehurst, who has retained the firm's services since 1993, saw how Kohn fought the FBI general counsel over signing a promise of nonretaliation.

Kohn, Whitehurst recalled, "had a 104-degree temperature, he was sick with the flu, he was disheveled." Said Whitehurst: "He's completely fearless."

— Lalita Clozel

LOCATION OF MAIN OFFICE: Washington | **NUMBER OF PARTNERS:** 3

KEY TO WINNING: "Put them in the shoes of the whistleblower," from their "decision-making - process" to "what they suffered after." —Stephen Kohn

Read more: <http://www.nationallawjournal.com/id=1202670958545/Elite-Trial-Lawyers-Kohn-Kohn-amp-Colapinto#ixzz3EiE66yh1>