



National Partner

Paris | 32 rue de Monceau, Paris, France 75008

T +33 1 57 57 80 57 | F +33 1 57 57 80 81

London | 160 Queen Victoria Street, London, UK EC4V
4QQ

T +44 20 7184 7601 | F +44 20 7184 7001

karen.coppens@dechert.com

Services

Anti-Corruption Compliance and Investigations >

White Collar, Compliance and Investigations >

Whistleblower Claims and False Claims Act Cases > Litigation >

Karen Coppens is a white collar crime and investigations lawyer who has been practicing for over a decade advising governments, multinational organizations (including boards and audit committees) and individuals under investigation by authorities including the Parquet National Financier, French investigating judges, the UK Serious Fraud Office and the UK National Crime Agency (and their international counterparts). She focuses on complex multi-agency and cross-border investigations involving international fraud, corruption and money laundering.

Ms. Coppens' work has a strong international focus, with a particular emphasis on Europe (particularly France and the UK), the Middle East, Africa and the United States. She has also advised senior executives who have been accused of, arrested or interviewed about various alleged crimes such as perverting the course of justice, fraud and corruption, money laundering, sanctions breaches and tax evasion.

An active member of the white collar community, Ms. Coppens has been formally recognized by numerous organizations and publications. In September 2019, she was included in the "50 Women

Future Leaders” list which recognises inspirational women who are making a significant contribution to gender diversity at work. In June 2019, she was named a "Rising Star in Litigation" by *Euromoney*'s European Women in Business Law Awards. In January 2019, she was shortlisted at the C5 Women in Compliance Awards for the "Mentor Award of the Year for Advancement of Women in Compliance" and the team she was a part of was also shortlisted in the "Fraud & Corruption Investigation Team of the Year."

The 2018 edition of *GIR30* noted Ms. Coppens as a leading senior member of Dechert's investigations team and she was included in *Global Investigations Review's* "Women in Investigations" profile, which highlights 100 remarkable women from around the world for their accomplishments in white collar crime law. She also received the Dechert Exceptional Teachers Award, which was awarded to 11 lawyers from more than 150 nominations, for volunteering countless hours to training and developing the firm's associates.

Ms. Coppens has written extensively on Sapin II and French deferred prosecution agreements (conventions judiciaires d'intérêt public), the UK Bribery Act 2010 and how to manage multi-jurisdictional investigations and dawn raids. She has also delivered training on these topics to various corporates and has spoken on the subject at high-profile conferences in Paris and London.

Since September 2018, Ms. Coppens has spearheaded the efforts of the Dechert Global Women's Initiative (GWI) in London in order to create an internal support network for women at all levels at the firm. This has involved organizing various events that enable lawyers and business service professionals to meet and interact with more experienced colleagues, providing training as well as tools to develop their skills. She has organized a number of speaking events in London to showcase female talent and devised a monthly training program for female professionals at the firm. The London GWI initiative saw Dechert named "Best International Firm for Talent Management" at the *Euromoney* Women in Business Law Awards in June 2019, as well as being awarded "Outstanding Firm for Furthering Diversity and Inclusion" at the *Chambers* European Diversity & Inclusion Awards in October 2019.

Prior to joining Dechert, Ms. Coppens was an associate in the corporate crime and investigations department of another global law firm. As a trainee, she completed a secondment at a leading French firm in Paris. She was also an intern in the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Arusha, Tanzania.

EXPERIENCE

- **A major manufacturing and engineering corporation** in criminal investigations by multiple enforcement agencies into allegations of fraud, bribery and corruption.
- **The CEOs of a hedge fund and a bank** being investigated for tax evasion, fraud, money laundering, sanctions breaches and forgery in various jurisdictions.
- **Entities wholly or partly owned by a government** further to allegations of fraud, corruption, money laundering and sanctions breaches further to investments made in various jurisdictions, and interacting with relevant national enforcement agencies. Led efforts to extradite a suspect from a European jurisdiction to the Middle East to stand trial.
- **An individual** accused of perverting the course of justice.

- **A company** during raids carried out by the UK National Crime Agency further to allegations of bribery and money laundering (including attendance and management of the raids at the client's premises, and challenging the scope of the search warrants executed by the National Crime Agency).
- **A FTSE 100 company** during an internal investigation further to whistleblower allegations of bribery, corruption and sanctions breaches in various subsidiaries in Africa and Central Asia, and its self-report to the UK Serious Fraud Office.
- **The Head of State of a West African government** in a worldwide corruption investigation in Africa, the United States and Europe further to allegations of bribery and corruption when mining rights were granted.
- **A Head of State of a European country** being investigated of tax fraud further to a request for mutual legal assistance.
- **The CEO of a financial services firm** who received a Section 2 notice from the UK Serious Fraud Office to produce documents.
- **A leading financial institution** during an internal investigation further to allegations of fraud and bribery.
- **A mining company in Zambia** about its legal remedies further to a decision by the Zambian Ministry of Mines to revoke its mining rights.
- **An employee of a major bank** for LIBOR manipulation and prepared him for interviews in Switzerland, the United States and the UK.
- **A French company** operating in the extractive industry on its global anti-fraud and anti-bribery policies and delivered training to senior management on the UK Bribery Act 2010, the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977 and the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions.
- **An investment vehicle based in the Middle East** on its anti-fraud and anti-bribery policies.
- **A major shipping company**, including attendance and management of a raid of client premises by European Commission officials.

Pro Bono

- Supporting an NGO to analyze sexual offence laws in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus to advocate for legislative change for the LGBT community.
- Recipient of the **Samuel Klein Pro Bono Award** (March 2015). The award is given annually to recognize and honor those at Dechert who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to providing pro bono legal services.
- Active member of the **London Dechert Pro Bono Committee** (2011-September 2019).
- Active member of the **London Dechert Global Women's Initiative** (2013-present).
- Volunteer at the **Citizens' Advice Bureau** (2007-2018).
- Coordinated a team of six on a project for the **Society for Democratic Initiatives** to advise them on how to strengthen anti-bribery and corruption laws in Sierra Leone.
- Volunteered with the **Advocates for Human Rights** during two fact-finding missions in the Balkans to assess how domestic violence laws are being implemented (October 2014-February 2015).
- Worked on the **Save Life Foundation Project** in 2013 which was nominated for the Thomson Reuters Impact Award in October 2014.
- Co-coordinated a project with **Oxfam** called Raising Her Voice and supervised a team of 37 lawyers who carried out a legal analysis on the state of implementation in Kenya of the Maputo Protocol (May 2013-July 2014). In October 2014, Dechert was commended by the Financial Times for this project in its Innovative Lawyers report. Dechert was also

shortlisted as a finalist in the British Legal Awards for Corporate Social Responsibility for this project.

- Speaker and panel member at the **Lagos Public Interest Partnership** Stakeholders' meeting in Nigeria in November 2012 to discuss different legal aid models. The meeting was attended by 100 prominent leaders from Government, private practice, academia and civil society.
- Drafted a report on sex selection for the **Center for Reproductive Rights** based in New York, USA (2012).
- Organized the **London Dechert Legal Sponsored Walk** team to raise funds for pro bono agencies in and around London (2011).

EDUCATION

- School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, LL.B, 2002
- London School of Economics and Political Science, LL.M., 2003
- BPP Law School, LPC, 2004

ADMISSIONS

- England and Wales

LANGUAGES

- English
- French
- Dutch

MEMBERSHIPS

- **Le Cercle de la Compliance**
- **Fraud Lawyers Association**
- **Female Fraud Forum**
- **Women in Compliance**

- **Proceeds of Crime Lawyers Association**

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- **The Legal and Practical Challenges that Arise During Internal Investigations**, Retreat of the Cercle de la Compliance — Paris (July 3-4, 2019)
- **The Landscape of Internal Investigations in France Following the Implementation of the Sapin II law**, GIR Live — Paris (June 27, 2019)
- **From the Assessment of the Sapin II Law's Anti-Corruption System to the First French Deferred Prosecution Agreement (CJIP)**, Anti-Corruption France Conference, C5 — Paris (October 16-17, 2018)
- **Navigating Issues in Multi-jurisdictional Corruption Investigations in an Aggressive US/UK/French Enforcement Landscape**, Anti-Corruption France Conference, Round Table, C5 — Paris (October 16-17, 2018)
- **Key Considerations During Internal Investigations**, Dechert Event (co-organized with the Female Fraud Forum) — London (October 4, 2018)
- **Managing a Corporate Investigation: Compliance Roundtable** — Zurich and Geneva, Switzerland (June 5-6, 2018)
- **Is your organization ready to face a corruption or fraud allegation?**, Dechert Event — London (April 26, 2018)