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PRESS RELEASE

**White Collar Criminal Defense Specialist Joins  
Cohen Williams's Elite Trial Lawyers**

Cohen Williams LLP is proud to announce that Michael Schafler, most recently a partner at Boies Schiller Flexner LLP and previously a partner at Caldwell Leslie & Proctor PC, has joined the firm as a partner. Before entering private practice, Michael was a Trial Deputy at the Federal Public Defender's Office.

For the last nearly two decades, Michael has represented executives, professionals, lawyers, law firms, and business entities in a variety of high-stakes matters, ranging from criminal defense and government enforcement actions to internal investigations and complex civil litigation. Michael specializes in white collar criminal defense and has represented clients at all stages of proceedings, including grand jury and internal investigations, state and federal trials, and on appeal. His subject matter expertise includes securities and investment fraud, money laundering, wire and mail fraud, cyber-crimes, tax fraud, perjury, false statements and obstruction of justice, identity theft, and environmental and health and safety crimes. Outside the criminal law realm, Michael has represented clients in wide ranging civil and administrative matters.

"I feel so fortunate to be joining Cohen Williams. It's a special firm. I deeply appreciate its client-centered, high-touch approach to lawyering."

Cohen Williams was recently named one of Los Angeles's top boutique law firms. In addition to an extensive complex civil litigation practice, led by Marc Williams, and a rapidly-expanding employment law practice, led by Kathleen Erskine, Cohen Williams has a robust criminal defense practice led by four former Deputy Federal Public Defenders, Reuven Cohen, Alyssa Bell, Gabriel Pardo and Rachel Rossi, and former Assistant United States Attorney Jennifer Resnik. "I've seen first-hand that the firm fosters creative and strategic lawyering," Michael added.

Reuven, one of Cohen Williams's two founding partners, practiced with Michael at the Federal Defender's Office and has collaborated frequently with Michael since the two have been in private practice. "We feel extremely fortunate to have Michael join our team. He is a perfect fit for our firm's collaborative and collegial culture. From day one, we will be looking to Michael to guide us, with his tremendous lawyering skills and excellent judgment, as we continue to grow and build on the success we have achieved so far."

Michael's former long-time partner at Boies Schiller and Caldwell Leslie, David Willingham, said, "All of us at the LA office of BSF will really miss Michael. He has always been a lawyer you can count on

to provide excellent judgment and top-notch advocacy. While we are sorry to see Michael go, we wish him the best and look forward to continuing to collaborate with him.”

Former colleague Michael Proctor, who is currently the managing partner at Durie Tangri LLP, has practiced with Michael since 2002. “There is no other lawyer I know who possesses Michael’s unique combination of emotional intelligence, empathy, and strategic vision. Cohen Williams is lucky to have him.”

Michael is a valued member of the Los Angeles legal community outside his regular practice. He currently serves as Co-Chair of the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference Lawyer Representatives for the Central District of California. He has been named a Super Lawyer each year since 2014. He has served as a member of the Criminal Justice Act panel in the Central District of California, during which time he accepted dozens of appointments to represent indigent defendants charged with federal crimes. Michael also lectures and provides training to criminal defense lawyers on topics including bail, federal investigations and grand jury proceedings, navigating cooperation with prosecutors and law enforcement, and federal sentencing and advocacy.

For questions, please contact Marc Williams ([mwilliams@cohen-williams.com](mailto:mwilliams@cohen-williams.com)) or Reuven Cohen ([rcohen@cohen-williams.com](mailto:rcohen@cohen-williams.com)). Both can also be reached by telephone at (213) 232-5160.