



How **Lightfoot** lawyers
have earned their **stripes**
in high-profile government
investigations

Grand juries.
Internal investigations.
Business crime.
Government accountability.
Public corruption.

However government power is brought to bear, Lightfoot has been there before. Our White Collar team has been battle-tested in every forum — before Congress and legislative committees, in the courtroom and at the negotiation table.

And we've investigated some of the country's most powerful politicians.

Holding the nation's highest public office accountable

Our attorneys have previously been called upon in high-stakes investigations involving public officials, including a probe into a former President and First Lady of the United States.



Prior to joining Lightfoot, partner and practice leader Jack Sharman served as special counsel in the mid-1990s to the House Financial Services Committee for its Whitewater investigation into real estate investments made by then-President Bill Clinton and Hillary Clinton. Sharman oversaw a team whose work culminated in four days of nationally televised hearings in August 1995.

Throughout the investigation Sharman:

- Implemented staff depositions of witnesses, a rare occurrence at the time
- Dealt with the Clinton White House, the Office of Independent Counsel Ken Starr and a host of federal agencies
- Litigated in federal court
- Advised the committee and its chairman, Jim Leach of Iowa, on the legal, constitutional and practical implications of such an investigation

As the chairman wrote Sharman at the conclusion of the hearings:

“Your knowledge of the law, thorough-going professionalism and dogged persistence in search of the truth, reflect great credit on yourself, the Committee and the Congress.”

Leading the impeachment investigation of Governor Robert Bentley

In 2016, Alabama's governor, Robert J. Bentley, was embroiled in a scandal stemming from his reported attempts to cover up an alleged extramarital affair with a senior staffer. After an impeachment resolution passed in the Alabama House of Representatives, its Judiciary Committee engaged Sharman as special counsel to investigate claims of neglect of office and corruption and to prepare a report on his findings. In the event of impeachment proceedings he would also advise the Committee on how to conduct them.

Several Lightfoot attorneys — Brandon K. Essig, Rachel M. Lary, Wesley B. Gilchrist, Jeffrey P. Doss, Benjamin S. Willson and Amie A. Vague — joined Sharman as assistant special counsels to aid in the months-long process of collecting evidence, interviewing witnesses and compiling a case. The team included attorneys with diverse skills and experience: a former Congressional investigator, a former Assistant United States Attorney, a former Wall Street analyst, as well as business and criminal trial lawyers.

Their work produced a 3,000-page impeachment report that was publicly released on Friday, April 7, 2017, despite attempts by the governor to block it — including several emergency court hearings that day. The Alabama Supreme Court ultimately allowed the impeachment hearings to go forward.

On Monday, April 10, Sharman presented the contents of the impeachment report to the House Judiciary Committee. This proved to be the tipping point. Later that day, Governor Bentley pled guilty to two state-law criminal misdemeanors relating to campaign finance, and resigned.

Lightfoot's role in the Bentley impeachment investigation received national attention and significant media coverage.



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