

## Joseph A. Levitt

Senior Counsel  
Washington, D.C.

### Biography

As the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's former top food regulator, Joe Levitt brings a true insider's knowledge in helping clients successfully navigate complex industry regulation. Whether influencing policy making or confronting a threatened compliance action, Joe's 25 years of FDA experience puts clients in the best position to succeed.

Joe skillfully handles high-visibility recalls and compliance actions. If organizations find themselves in trouble with the FDA, they need someone with a deep insider's understanding of what works and what doesn't. Joe knows what the agency expects in the compliance arena and he can communicate a client's position calmly and effectively to the FDA so the matter is put behind them.

On behalf of the food industry, Joe was on the ground floor when Congress developed the landmark FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). He was also a leading voice for the food industry when the FDA developed regulations that all food companies must now follow. Joe and his team know how to guide clients through the labyrinth of FDA's FSMA regulations to ensure that they are as prepared as possible for a FSMA inspection by the FDA.

Joe is among the most decorated officials in FDA



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### Practices

Food Law

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### Industries

Consumer

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### Areas of focus

Food Legislation and Regulatory  
Policy Development

Food Recalls

International Regulatory  
Compliance

Food Compliance and Enforcement

Food Advertising and Regulation

history, with his achievements being recognized by multiple U.S. presidents, cabinet secretaries, and FDA Commissioners. He maintains close working relationships with senior FDA officials and has served as the Board Chair of the FDA Alumni Association.

## Representative experience

Represented food industry in all aspects of legislative and regulations development for the landmark FDA Food Safety Modernization Act.

Represented major food company in nationwide recall and successful return to marketplace.

Counseled major food companies in responding to FDA Warning Letters and reaching successful resolution.

Counseled major food companies in responding to criminal investigations.

## Awards and rankings

- Food & Beverages: Regulatory & Litigation (Nationwide), *Chambers USA*, 2009-2020
- Food & Beverage MVP, *Law360*, 2016
- FDA Alumni Association Founders Award, 2014
- BTI Client Service All-Star, *BTI Consulting Group*, 2013
- FDA Distinguished Alumni Award, *FDA*, 2010
- FDA Equal Employment Opportunity Award, *FDA*, 2002
- HHS Secretary's Certificate of Appreciation, 2003
- Presidential Distinguished Executive Rank Award, 2001
- FDLI Distinguished Service and Leadership Award, *FDLI*, 2001
- Presidential Meritorious Executive Rank Award, 1991, 1999

Medical Foods and Dietary Supplements

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## Education and admissions

### Education

J.D., Boston University School of Law, cum laude, 1978

B.A., Cornell University, magna cum laude, 1975

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## Memberships

FDA Alumni Association (2007-2017) (Board Chair 2012-14)

Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network (FAAN) (2005-10) (Board Chair 2007)

Food and Drug Law Institute (2004-05)

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## Bar admissions and qualifications

District of Columbia

Massachusetts

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## Accolades

"Joe brings a level of understanding about how the FDA thinks about a particular issue that is not replicable anywhere else."

*Chambers USA 2017*

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- FDA Award of Merit, 1982, 1985, 1987, 1999
- FDA Commissioner's Special Citation, *FDA*, 1989
- HHS Secretary's Special Citation, 1989
- HHS Distinguished Service Award, 1988
- Public Health Service Superior Service Award, 1986

## Latest thinking and events

- News
  - Reminder: Opportunity to comment on draft “healthy” symbols for FDA’s planned consumer research
- News
  - FDA to test voluntary “healthy” symbols through consumer research
- News
  - Top 10 list of food safety and compliance scenarios
- Webinar
  - Webinar: A Seat at the Table – What's new in food law
- News
  - FDA extends enforcement discretion for UFI food facility registration requirement to December 2022
- News
  - HHS postpones final SUNSET rule for one year pending judicial review

"Joe 'accrued deep experience during his previous position within the FDA, and has extensive expertise in FSMA-related matters.'"

*Chambers 2015*

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"Joe 'earns acclaim for the 'great perspective and insight' he brings to regulatory advice.'"

*Chambers 2015*

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"[R]evered by clients as 'an icon of food law.'"

*Chambers 2015*

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