

Robert G. Bernhoft is the founding partner of the Bernhoft Law Firm, S.C., a boutique civil and criminal litigation firm headquartered in Austin, Texas. Mr. Bernhoft has litigated civil and criminal cases in state and federal courts throughout the country, focusing on civil and criminal tax controversies, complex business disputes, and domestic and international investment fraud recovery.

Bernhoft took an unconventional path to becoming one of the nation's most successful tax defense attorneys. Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1960, Bernhoft was taught piano from an early age by his mother and became an accomplished classical pianist. Turning toward Jazz, R&B, and Blues in his late teens, Bernhoft took to the road as a touring musician for many years, then left the road for a successful career in business after the first of his three children was born. During this time Bernhoft also became involved in third-party politics, and served as a state, national, and executive committeeman for the U.S. Taxpayers Party (now Constitution Party), and for a time as the party's National Parliamentarian. Always a voracious reader, Bernhoft had steeped himself in constitutional, political, and tax theory in service of his political activism.

Heeding the voices that had nagged him for many years about a law calling, Bernhoft eschewed a further career in business and entered the University of Wisconsin at age thirty-three, graduating with an Honors BA in Political Science, *summa cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, with High Honors in the Major and Senior Thesis. Matriculating directly to Wisconsin Law School, Bernhoft obtained his Juris Doctor in 2000, graduating *cum laude* with Moot Court and various other academic honors, all the while working to support his young family.

Bernhoft hung out his own shingle immediately after law school graduation and his legal career accelerated quickly from there. In 2005, Bernhoft led the trial team that acquitted former IRS Special Agent Joe Banister of all tax fraud and conspiracy charges. When movie actor Wesley Snipes was indicted on tax fraud and conspiracy charges by a Florida grand jury in 2007, Bernhoft stepped into the case on short notice and mounted one of the most significant tax trial defenses in decades. Calling Snipes "the unwinnable case in the impossible place," the national media was stunned when the jury returned not guilty verdicts on all felony counts. On the heels of the Snipes' trial, Bernhoft obtained appellate reversal of all tax fraud convictions for Jerry Marchelletta, Jr., a man persecuted and hounded by the IRS for over a decade. After an extensive government misconduct investigation yielded reams of previously undisclosed exculpatory evidence, all retrial counts were then dismissed with prejudice in 2012, and Marchelletta walked out of court a free man.

Mr. Bernhoft lives in Austin, Texas with Vicki, his wife of thirty-four years, and their dog Sassafra. They enjoy Austin's vibrant live music and food scenes, and spending time with their three daughters and two grandchildren.