

Investment Due Diligence

K2 Integrity is the global preeminent risk, compliance, investigations, and monitoring firm—built by former regulators and industry leaders, driven by interdisciplinary teams, and supported by cutting edge technology to safeguard our clients' operations, reputations, and economic security.

Knowledge Is Power

Effective due diligence is a key component of a successful business transaction. Whether acquiring a company, investing in a business, or considering a partner, understanding the risks and developing ways to mitigate them in advance increases the chance of a successful deal, especially in times of market uncertainty.

Whether our clients are considering a merger, acquisition, joint partnership, or investment, we empower them with the critical intelligence they need to make key decisions with confidence.

Our Approach

Critically important to any investment is a thorough understanding of the drivers and dynamics that can impact the deal. In addition to information regarding key stakeholders, investigation can illuminate how the actions of competitors, lawmakers, unions, and advocacy groups might affect an investment. Our experienced investigators identify and uncover key intelligence, providing our clients with details on vulnerabilities missed in the course of quantitative or traditional investment analysis.

Each due diligence investigation we conduct is led by a senior practitioner who leverages K2 Integrity's extensive and diverse experience, the thoughtful application of technology, and public record resources to find facts that allow clients to mitigate risks and make informed decisions. Our research methodology is iterative, layered, and collaborative, and looks to past practices, behaviors, and events to understand what the future might hold.

Our consultative method allows clients to match the level of diligence needed with the opportunity's risk profile, resulting in a focused approach that ranges from targeted compliance screens to complex multijurisdictional investigations that span countries and continents.

Our Due Diligence clients include

- ▶ Public and private corporations
- ▶ Universities, foundations, and nonprofit organizations
- ▶ Law firms
- ▶ Sovereign investment funds
- ▶ Private equity firms
- ▶ Hedge funds
- ▶ Pension funds
- ▶ Asset managers
- ▶ Venture capitalists
- ▶ Family offices

Our Services

All K2 Integrity due diligence assignments are shaped with our extensive industry and geographical insight and conducted in utmost confidence and to the highest legal and ethical standards. We tailor the scope of our investigations to the specific needs of each client, modifying the scope of our work to reflect the level of risk inherent in each project—which often includes a window into regulatory and litigation considerations.

We deliver comprehensive background information on individuals and companies around the world. Our background investigations draw from a wide variety of sources, including public records available online and through on-the-ground research. These records include litigation and regulatory filings, criminal proceedings, judgments, liens, corporate records, bankruptcy proceedings, media reports, social media, and other sources.

We comb through the information we gather to identify misrepresentations, misstatements, nondisclosures of material information, patterns of unethical behavior, and other indicators, seeking to answer the following questions:

- Is the company or its management facing undisclosed financial, legal, or regulatory challenges?
- Can the claims made by the business be independently verified?
- Does the company have undisclosed investors, business partners, or related party transactions?
- Has the company engaged in problematic behavior in the past that is likely to be repeated?
- Are there indications of corporate mismanagement or failure to institute adequate internal controls, compliance programs, or reporting mechanisms?
- Have company officers and directors been truthful and honest in their biographies, regulatory filings and representations about themselves in public forums?
- Have members of the company's leadership team been connected to scandals or controversies and do they have the requisite ability to lead the company?
- How is the company and its leadership regarded by customers, competitors, and former employees?

We also offer high-quality intelligence gathered from our network of human sources around the world. Discreet source inquiries can be useful for developing context for information surfaced in the public record, obtaining intelligence on competitors and their plans, assessing the reputations and track records of individuals or companies, and for gathering many other types of actionable information. We map the competitive landscape in order to understand where commercial advantage is gained and where threats might lie.

K2 Integrity's due diligence expertise can provide investors with the facts and intelligence needed to successfully structure and safeguard their investments and protect their reputation.

Multidisciplinary Teams

We approach investigations using global, multidisciplinary teams of experts from the top of their fields, including former senior government advisors, regulators, compliance officers, technology professionals, prosecutors, lawyers, law enforcement and intelligence professionals, forensic accountants, investigative journalists, and academics, each bringing a unique set of risk management, investigative, and advisory skills and perspectives to the client's situation.

Key Contacts



Juan C. Zarate
Global Co-Managing Partner and
Chief Strategy Officer
Washington DC
jzarate@k2integrity.com



Lisa Silverman
Senior Managing Director
Chicago
lsilverman@k2integrity.com



Mark Skertic
Managing Director
Chicago
mskertic@k2integrity.com



Lucy Gonzales
Senior Director
New York
lgonzales@k2integrity.com