



Lee Arian
Partner

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Admissions

State Bar of California

Education

UCLA School of Law, J.D.
Georgetown University,
Bachelor's degree, *magna cum laude*

PROFILE

Over the past 25 years, Lee Arian has earned a national reputation as a leader in the fight for greater integrity in the U.S. healthcare system. An authority on healthcare fraud and abuse, he focused on deterring and detecting fraud that costs the system billions of dollars a year.

Acknowledged Authority by Fortune 50 Companies

Lee's deep industry knowledge and outstanding reputation among prosecutors and health regulators has positioned him as a prominent thought leader among Fortune 50 companies, particularly for creating industry-respected program integrity guidelines and processes to ensure regulatory compliance. He joined Nelson Hardiman to take a hands-on role tackling the most complex emerging issues in healthcare and life sciences and regulatory compliance on the front line of the challenges facing the healthcare industry.

Leadership Role For Largest U.S. Health Insurers

Lee's 13 years of litigation and government enforcement experience in both criminal and civil cases, is uniquely bolstered by a dozen years of leadership in executive positions among the nation's largest health insurers. As a Vice President for Optum's advisory services team, he provided counsel to United Healthcare, as well as several small, primarily Medicaid plans, on fraud and abuse issues. As Staff Vice President at Anthem, he oversaw the enterprise fraud and abuse audit efforts, implementing cutting edge tools to ensure regulatory compliance with all federal and state laws relating to recovery. He also provided written testimony to Congress on healthcare fraud activities and met with select Congressional members and committee staffers to address pressing healthcare fraud issues.

Federal Prosecutor and Healthcare Fraud Coordinator

While serving as Assistant United States Attorney in Los Angeles, Lee spent nearly eight years in the United States Attorney's Office's Criminal Division Public Corruption and Government Fraud section where he served as the health care fraud coordinator, investigating and prosecuting fraud involving health care, government programs, banks, securities and taxes.

Healthcare Educator

In addition to fiercely protecting his clients, Lee has lectured and written on healthcare and sentencing issues for the American Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association, the California Society for Healthcare Attorneys, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. He has also served as adjunct professor at Pepperdine University where he taught a course on white collar crime.

Accolades

Lee was [named](#) to the Southern California Super Lawyers list in 2020. Before joining Nelson Hardiman, Lee led teams for the nation's largest insurers that were presented with the Investigative Excellence Award by the National Health Care Anti-Fraud Association (NHCAA) in 2006, 2010, 2011, and 2013. While working as an Assistant United States Attorney Lee was the four-time recipient of the Special Achievement Award for Superior Performance. Lee has also received commendations from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Defense Criminal Investigative Service (DCIS), and Secret Service.

EXPERIENCE

- **Criminal Prosecution** Criminal lead on joint civil/criminal team investigating excessive outlier payments to large insurer leading to payment of a \$980 million civil settlement.
- **Criminal Prosecution** Brought first prosecution in the United States against a company selling a supplement containing human growth hormone leading to Corporate Integrity Agreement and nearly \$2 million fine.
- **Criminal Prosecution** Prosecuted Los Angeles Bio-Clinical Laboratories, which defrauded Medi-Cal out of about \$5 million by billing for unnecessary tests; principals sentenced to 51 months in jail. Led joint criminal and civil investigation into Health Line Clinical Laboratories, leading to \$1 million civil settlement and Corporate Integrity Agreement.
- **Criminal Prosecution** Lead investigation of Albert Robles, former City Treasurer for South Gate, resulting in conviction on various corruption charges.
- **Overpayment** Represented adolescent rehabilitation facility in overpayment request from national insurer seeking more than \$2 million due to purported licensing issues. Resolved for no payment and agreement to pay pending claims.
- **Overpayment** Represented drug treatment center and laboratory engaged in drug screen testing in overpayment request from national insurer seeking \$600k in overpayments. Resolved for no payment and agreement on future business practices.
- **False Claims Act** Favorably settled whistleblower lawsuits on behalf of one of the largest health systems in the country.