BIRD MARELLA LLP

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Ariel A. Neuman

Partner

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Practices:

Internal Investigations, Business and Financial Crimes, Complex Business Litigation, Class Actions

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Ariel Neuman is a trial lawyer who represents companies and individuals in high-stakes civil litigation, white collar criminal matters, and sensitive internal investigations. He is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, an invitation-only fellowship of pre-eminent lawyers in the United States and Canada.

Mr. Neuman has been recognized by the *Daily Journal* as a "Top 100 Lawyer," "Top White Collar Lawyer," and "Leading Commercial Litigator" for multiple years. He is ranked by *Chambers USA*, which describes him as a "tough and tenacious advocate," and he was named the 2023 Lawyer of the Year for Criminal Defense: White-Collar by *Best Lawyers®*.

He represents Fortune 100 companies, multinational corporations, and individuals in high-stakes business disputes, regulatory enforcement actions, mass tort and class action matters, and criminal investigation and prosecution of white collar matters. He also conducts internal investigations involving sensitive allegations for corporate clients and boards.

A former federal prosecutor, Mr. Neuman has led trial teams in federal and state courts and has argued numerous appeals before the Ninth Circuit. He is frequently retained in "bet-the-company" matters across industries including financial services, technology, healthcare, energy, automotive, real estate, and sports and entertainment.

Mr. Neuman and his trial team were awarded *Benchmark Litigation*'s Impact Case of the Year for *People v. Plains All American Pipeline.*

Mr. Neuman also represents students and families facing preparatory school and university disciplinary proceedings.

Mr. Neuman is active in mentorship and nonprofit service. For more than a decade, he served as visiting faculty at Harvard Law School's Trial Advocacy Workshop. In 2020, he joined the board of Bet Tzedek Legal Services, and previously served on the board of the Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice.

Before joining Bird Marella, Mr. Neuman served for nearly seven years as an Assistant United States Attorney in Los Angeles. He was named Prosecutor of the Year by the Federal Law Enforcement Officers' Association and received multiple commendations for his work prosecuting white collar and violent crime matters.

Education, Clerkship & Admissions

- Harvard Law School, J.D., magna cum laude, 2005
- Columbia University, B.A., magna cum laude, Student Body President, Phi Beta Kappa, 2001

- Law Clerk to the Hon. Nora M. Manella, U.S. District Court, Central District of California

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- California, 2006
- Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals
- U.S. District Courts: Central & Northern Districts of California

Notable Matters

Representative Matters at Bird Marella

Defending one of the nation's largest waste management companies in a mass tort action involving nearly 10,000 plaintiffs, and numerous related civil actions involving both private and public entity plaintiffs.

Obtained a precedent-setting order compelling arbitration in a putative class action against one of the world's largest vehicle manufacturers.

Lead trial counsel in a multi-firm defense of the world's leading electric vehicle manufacturer in an enforcement action by California authorities.

Lead trial counsel in a multi-firm defense of one of the world's largest energy companies against criminal charges in the Central District of California.

Lead counsel for the Los Angeles Angels in all matters related to the death of pitcher Tyler

Skaggs, including a criminal investigation of a former employee and civil lawsuits filed by the Skaggs family.

Trial counsel for two families in a high-profile dispute against celebrity developer Mohamed Hadid regarding an illegal mansion Hadid built in Bel Air. Following a six-week trial in which every lawyer, witness, and juror wore masks (and some jurors and witnesses participated by Zoom), secured a multi-million dollar verdict for clients as well as an order requiring that the mansion be demolished.

Trial counsel defending Plains All American Pipeline, a Fortune 150 company, in a four-month trial based on criminal charges filed by the California Attorney General's Office and Santa Barbara DA's Office, related to the largest oil spill in recent California history. Obtained dismissal of 37 out of 46 counts and a penalty a tiny fraction of that requested by prosecutors.

Defended healthcare start-up being investigated by the SEC for potential violations of various federal securities laws, including exemptions to the SEC's registration requirements. Mr. Neuman conducted an internal investigation into the alleged misconduct and directed the company's responses to the SEC. The SEC promptly closed their investigation without any finding of fault by the company or its executives.

Trial counsel defending a real estate developer charged with making an illegal bribe to a Los Angeles City Councilmember.

Represented a multi-billion dollar publicly-traded technology company in the mobile app ad space in relation to a civil antitrust investigation being conducted by the Department of Justice.

Obtained full return of over $4 million in cash seized from client, and convinced U.S. Department of Justice to abandon the case.

Represented multiple members of Congress in various grand jury investigations.

In "bet-the-company" litigation, defeated a preliminary injunction demand that would have

shuttered oil-services business and required firing of all employees.

Represented one of the largest minority-owned broker/dealers in a FINRA arbitration and successfully defeated a demand for a permanent injunction regarding certain business practices related to muni bonds and fixed income investments.

Represented a doctor in an investigation by the DOJ related to various health care fraud allegations. Mr. Neuman convinced the Assistant U.S. Attorney to reverse a decision to indict the client on charges of billing for non-existent or medically unnecessary procedures.

Conducted an internal investigation for the Chinese subsidiary of a US-based technology company. The investigation focused on possible FCPA and tax violations, and was concluded without any finding of wrongdoing.

Representative Matters at the U.S. Attorney's Office

In a three-week jury trial of a defendant charged with crimes related to tax evasion, art theft, and art fraud, Mr. Neuman and a colleague secured convictions on all charges. Mr. Neuman joined the case only weeks before trial, took over opening and closing arguments as well as the examination of numerous key witnesses, and earned accolades for his trial advocacy skills from colleagues and onlookers.

Led the investigation and prosecution of over a dozen defendants involved in a $20 million mortgage and bank fraud scheme involving short sale and lending fraud on over 35 properties around Southern California. Among the defendants was a former bank officer who accepted bribes to manipulate the bank's short sale process.

In a matter that garnered world-wide media attention, secured the extradition to Mexico of a television producer on charges of murdering his wife at a Cancun resort and then fleeing back to the United States.

Prosecuted over 200 defendants for violations of federal racketeering ("RICO") laws. As part of

these and related cases, won several jury trials where defendants were convicted of RICO charges, murder conspiracy charges, alien smuggling offenses, firearms offenses, and narcotics distribution charges. His efforts were recognized repeatedly in awards and commendations from various organizations.

Associations

- Visiting Faculty, Harvard Law School: Trial Advocacy Workshop
- Board Member, Bet Tzedek Legal Services
- Board of Directors, American Bar Association White Collar Crime Committee, Southern California Regional Subcommittee
- Member, American Bar Association: Criminal Justice Section, Section of Litigation
- Member, Federal Bar Association: Federal Litigation Section, Criminal Law Section, Health Law Section, Securities Law Section
- Former Member, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
- Former Board Member, Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice

Awards & Recognitions

- Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers
- Ranked, Litigation: White-Collar Crime & Government Investigations, *Chambers USA*, 2021 - present
- Ranked, Los Angeles City Elite: Commercial Disputes, *Legal 500*, 2027
- Ranked, Los Angeles City Elite: White-Collar Crime, *Legal 500*, 2026 - present
- Leading Commercial Litigators, *Daily Journal*, 2025 - present
- Top 100 Lawyers in California, *Daily Journal*, 2023-2024, 2026
- Lawyer of the Year, Criminal Defense: White-Collar, Best Lawyers®, 2023
- Litigation Star, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2023
- Selected as "Legal Visionary," *Business of Law Magazine*, Los Angeles Times B2B Publishing, 2022
- Top White Collar Lawyers, *Daily Journal*, 2021
- Up and Coming, Litigation: White Collar Crime & Government Investigations, *Chambers USA*, 2019-2020
- Best Lawyers in America, Criminal Defense: White-Collar, Best Lawyers®, 2021 - present
- Impact Case of the Year: *People v. Plains All American Pipeline*, *Benchmark Litigation,* 2020
- Rising Star: White Collar, *Law360*, 2019
- Under 40 Hot List, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2018-2019
- Top 40 Under 40, *Daily Journal*, 2018
- Southern California Super Lawyers, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2018 - present
- Southern California Rising Stars, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2015-2017
- Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2014
- U.S. Department of Justice, 2012
- California Narcotics Officers Association, 2011
- Peace Officers' Association of Los Angeles County, 2011
- Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, 2010

- Anti-Defamation League, 2010
- Federal Law Enforcement Officers' Association, 2008

Publications & Speaking Engagements

- Presenter, "The Self-Disclosure Dilemma: DOJ's New Corporate Enforcement Policy and the GC's Decision," Association of Corporate Counsel Southern California Chapter (ACC SoCal), October 2026
- Moderator, "Effective Openings and Powerful Closings," National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL) West Coast White Collar Conference, June 2026
- Quoted, "Family feud over real estate empire ends with $1.9M punitive damages award," *Daily Journal*, June 2026
- Guest, "Menendez Case Shows Peril of Talks with DOJ," Bloomberg Law Podcast, July 2024
- Author, "Menendez Case Shows Possible Peril of Pre-Indictment Meetings", Bloomberg Law, July 2024
- Co-Author, "Bank Secrecy Act exposes failure of Congress in articulating its intent," *Daily Journal*, October 2022
- Co-Author, "Renewed fight against corporate crime," *Daily Journal,* November 2021
- Contributor, "California: An Introduction to Litigation: White-Collar Crime & Government Investigations," *Chambers USA*, May 2021
- Co-Author, "FCPA Enforcement Continues Apace Under Trump Administration," Bloomberg Law, December 2019
- Co-Author, "Walmart Settlement's Lessons For Avoiding FCPA Prosecution," *Law360*, August 2019
- Co-Author, "How Walmart Pulled off an FCPA Win," *Daily Journal*, July 2019 (with Naomi Solomon)
- Co-Author, "When and Why to Consider Self-Disclosure of Criminal Conduct," American Bar Association, March 2019
- Co-Author, "Six Ways To Avoid Being Co-Opted Into a Trade-Based Money Laundering Scheme," Bloomberg BNA, May 2018
- Co-Author, "Backpage Dismissal Does Not Solve Websites' Woes," *Law360*, December 2016
- Co-Author, "United States: White-Collar Criminal Defence," Global Investigations Review, August 2015
- Co-Author, "United States: White-Collar Criminal Defence," Global Investigations Review, September 2014
- Co-Author, "FedEx Indictment Creates Bad Incentives," *Daily Journal*, August 2014
- Author, "Ruling in Chevron's Ecuador Case Inspires a RICO Refresher," *Daily Journal,* March 2014
- Co-Author, "Custodial Interrogations: What We Know, What We Do, and What We Can Learn From Law Enforcement Experiences," Educing Information – Interrogation: Science & Art, National Defense Intelligence College Press, 2006