



Ariel A. Neuman

Partner

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Practices:

Securities Fraud and Insider Trading, Internal Investigations, Business and Financial Crimes, Intellectual Property, Complex Business Litigation, Class Actions

Ariel Neuman is a seasoned trial lawyer who clients turn to for their most high-profile civil cases and criminal 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 is a decorated and highly respected litigator who is regarded as one of the country's top trial attorneys. In addition to being a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, he has been named a "Top 100 Lawyer," "Top White Collar Lawyer," and "Leading Commercial Litigator" by the *Daily Journal* for multiple years running. 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®.

Mr. Neuman's clients range from Fortune 100 companies and international conglomerates to individuals and local mid-size entities. The cases he handles include regulatory enforcement actions, mass torts and class action defense, high-stakes business disputes, and criminal investigation and prosecution in white collar matters. His practice also involves discreet, thorough, and credible internal investigations of the most sensitive matters for multi-national corporations and others.

Mr. Neuman leverages his courtroom skills and experience as a federal prosecutor to successfully represent clients confronting their most difficult litigation challenges in both the civil and criminal arenas. He has led trial teams in federal and state courts and has argued numerous appeals before the Ninth Circuit. His ability and willingness to take matters to trial leads clients to seek out his assistance in "bet-the-company" litigation, and his clients come from diverse industries including financial services, technology, healthcare, the energy and automotive sector, real estate, and the world of sports, gaming, and entertainment.

Representative matters include:

- Lead trial counsel in a multi-firm defense of the world's leading electric vehicle manufacturer

against 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.
- Defended a Fortune 150 company at trial against criminal charges related to the largest oil spill in recent California history.
- Defending one of the largest waste management companies in the country in a mass tort action involving almost 10,000 plaintiffs.
- Led an internal investigation and related civil litigation for the Los Angeles Angels baseball team related to the death of pitcher Tyler Skaggs.
- Obtained a precedent-setting order to compel to arbitration a putative class action against one of the world's largest vehicle manufacturers.
- Obtained a multi-million dollar jury verdict and order to tear down an illegal mansion in Bel Air in a six-week trial against celebrity real estate developer Mohamed Hadid.
- Represented members of Congress in relation to grand jury investigations.
- Convinced the US Department of Justice to abandon its investigation of his client and return millions of dollars seized in cash.
- Represented a number of prominent individuals, including entrepreneurs, professional athletes, and medical or financial professionals against federal criminal charges.

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

Mr. Neuman is dedicated to mentorship programs for up-and-coming attorneys and aiding nonprofit organizations focused on serving underrepresented communities. For over a decade, he served as visiting faculty at Harvard Law School's Trial Advocacy Workshop, and in 2020 he joined the board of Bet Tzedek Legal Services. Prior to that, he served as a board member for the Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice.

Before joining Bird Marella, Mr. Neuman served as an Assistant United States Attorney in Los Angeles for nearly seven years. Mr. Neuman was named Prosecutor of the Year by the Federal Law Enforcement Officers' Association and received numerous commendations and awards for his service. He led high-profile investigations and prosecutions of white-collar and violent crimes and was also responsible for the domestic portion of several international investigations.

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

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- 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

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 with 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 an oil spill off the coast of Santa Barbara. 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.

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

Obtained full return of over \$4 million in cash seized from client, and convinced US DOJ to

abandon the case.

Represented multiple members of Congress in various grand jury investigations.

Represents a former NBA player in a healthcare fraud case pending in the Southern District of New York.

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 financial professional involved in a dispute with his former business partners, who attempted to freeze Mr. Neuman’s client’s out of the partnership and deprive him of his rightful assets and membership interests. The matter was confidentially settled to the satisfaction of Mr. Neuman’s client.

Represents 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.

Represented a CFO and part owner of a media holding company against money laundering and Travel Act charges in connection with the recent indictment in Arizona relating to Backpage.com, as well as in connection with numerous related forfeiture proceedings in Los Angeles.

Represented a patent attorney under investigation for violation of the Hobbs Act (extortion involving threats of financial harm). Mr. Neuman set the stage for his client to get immunity from the Department of Justice.

Represented an individual under investigation for antitrust, anti-competitive activities in the public works construction area. The investigation was closed without any charges being filed against Mr. Neuman's client.

Represented an immigration attorney charged with securities fraud and other violations by the SEC related to the attorney's work on behalf of clients seeking EB-5 visas.

Represented two prominent physicians under investigation for alleged Medicare and Medicaid fraud. The United States Attorney's Office and Department of Health and Human Services – Office of the Inspector General, closed the investigation without filing any charges against Mr. Neuman's clients.

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 wrong-doing.

In major federal trade-based money laundering prosecution, secured settlement for client that resulted in dismissal of money laundering charges. Mr. Neuman and his colleagues successfully argued for the suppression of evidence illegally seized from one of the client's business locations.

Represents a corporate executive facing a civil contempt action brought by the Federal Trade Commission. This case is on hold while other litigation continues, but to date Mr. Neuman has successfully prevented the FTC from deposing his client.

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: White-Collar Crime, *Legal 500*, 2026
- Leading Commercial Litigators, *Daily Journal*, 2025-present
- Top 100 Lawyers in California, *Daily Journal*, 2023-2024
- 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

Articles & Publications

- 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 and Partners USA*, May 2021
- Co-Author, "[FCPA Enforcement Continues Apace Under Trump Administration](#)," Bloomberg Law, December 13, 2019
- Co-Author, "[Walmart Settlement's Lessons For Avoiding FCPA Prosecution](#)," *Law360*, August 27, 2019
- Co-Author, "[How Walmart Pulled off an FCPA Win](#)," *Daily Journal*, July 2, 2019 (with Naomi Solomon)
- Co-Author, "[When and Why to Consider Self-Disclosure of Criminal Conduct](#)," American Bar Association, March 21, 2019
- Co-Author, "[Six Ways To Avoid Being Co-Opted Into a Trade-Based Money Laundering Scheme](#)," Bloomberg BNA, May 14, 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 25, 2015
- Co-Author, "[United States: White-Collar Criminal Defence](#)," *Global Investigations Review*, September 17, 2014
- Co-Author, "[FedEx Indictment Creates Bad Incentives](#)," *Daily Journal*, August 5, 2014

- Author, “Ruling in Chevron’s Ecuador Case Inspires a RICO Refresher,” Daily Journal, March 31, 2014
- Co-Author, “Custodial Interrogations: What We Know, What We Do, and What We Can Learn From Law Enforcement Experiences,” Educating Information – Interrogation: Science & Art, National Defense Intelligence College Press, 2006