



Elliot C. Harvey Schatmeier

Partner

✉ ehs@birdmarella.com

☎ 310.201.2100

Practices:

Securities Litigation, Real Estate, Health Care Litigation, Fraud, Qui Tam, Civil RICO, Complex Business Litigation

A partner at Bird Marella, Elliot Harvey Schatmeier focuses his practice on trying complex business disputes, including breach of contract and business tort cases, commercial fraud, disputes arising from complex business transactions, as well as breach of fiduciary duty and professional liability matters.

Because of trial and arbitration experience and his focused, cost-effective approach to case management, clients from varied industries have retained Elliot to represent them in their complex business disputes. His clients include Fortune 500 companies, large private and publicly traded companies, regional and national banks, healthcare providers, and technology software companies. Because his clients come from many industries (including the technology, banking, entertainment, healthcare, fashion, and manufacturing sectors), his trial and arbitration experience covers a broad range of business-related issues, including securities arbitrations work for broker-dealers, real estate trials and arbitrations, trade secret cases, breach of contracts, securities cases, and intellectual property cases.

Another significant facet of Elliot's practice involves mass action lawsuits. Currently, he is co-lead counsel in an effort by Plaintiffs who have brought more than 150 lawsuits in state and federal courts in New Jersey to enforce the privacy and safety rights of judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement officers under New Jersey's Daniel's Law, which are the most high-profile privacy cases being litigated.

Education, Clerkship & Admissions

- Columbia Law School, J.D., Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar, 2013
- University of California, Berkeley, B.A., 2008

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- Law Clerk to the Hon. Henry B. Pitman, U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York

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- California, 2018
 - New York, 2014
 - U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second, Third, Ninth, and Eleventh Circuits
 - U.S. District Courts of California for the Central, Northern, and Southern Districts
 - U.S. District Courts of New York for the Southern and Eastern Districts
 - U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California

Notable Matters

Complete defense victory for Compass Inc. in multi-million-dollar fraud arbitration brought by rival brokerage. Plaintiff had alleged that Compass fraudulently induced it to join Compass under false pretenses and sought compensatory and punitive damages. After a week-long arbitration, Elliot, lead trial counsel, convinced the arbitrator to find for Compass and reject all of Plaintiff's claims.

Obtained a complete defense victory for brokerage firm in a FINRA arbitration involving more than \$40 million dollars in alleged damages. Although motions to dismiss are rarely granted in FINRA arbitrations, the three-arbitrator Panel unanimously granted Bird Marella's motion to dismiss the case at the close of the claimant's evidence.

Secured a complete dismissal of all claims asserted against client Compass (NYSE: COMP), a top real estate brokerage, in a federal trade secrets lawsuit brought in the Central District of California by one of its competitors. The Court granted the firm's motion to dismiss in its entirety on the first attempt.

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.

Litigation counsel for a publicly-traded California bank in a complex fraudulent transfer action against the financial institution's former customers arising from their failure to repay a \$9 million commercial loan. After taking over the case for another law firm, defending multiple dispositive motions, and vigorously pursuing discovery against newly-named parties, the defendants agreed to pay a favorable settlement on the eve of trial.

Counsel for healthcare company in an internal investigation involving accounting irregularities. The investigation resulted in remedial actions taken by the client.

Litigation counsel for a prominent California law firm in a False Claims Act case of first impression, alleging the firm “fraudulently” induced its former client, a public agency, to disburse several million dollars in public funds. Elliot and Bird Marella aggressively litigated the relator’s standing to pursue the case, and obtained a writ of mandate from the California Court of Appeal finding that the relator had a conflict of interest that precluded them from participating in agency decisions relating to the lawsuit. After filing summary judgment motions, then persuading the Court of Appeal to stay all trial court proceedings, Elliot and Bird Marella were able to settle the case for a small fraction of the public funds at issue.

PRO BONO EXPERIENCE

Since 2020, Elliot has been a proud member of the Board of Directors to the Survivor Justice Center, whose mission is to secure justice for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and empowers them to create their own futures. Elliot and Bird Marella are partners in SJC’s work and have successfully taken on pro bono assignments for those that SJC serves.

Prison Reform

Elliot successfully represented a pro bono client unjustly committed to more than 25 years of solitary confinement in New York correctional facilities, the second-longest tenure in New York State history. After Mr. Proctor’s procedural and substantive due process claims were dismissed at summary judgment, Elliot successfully convinced the Second Circuit to overturn the decision and to set a new standard for procedural due process claims raised by inmates housed in solitary confinement. See *Proctor v. LeClaire*, 846 F.3d 597 (2d Cir. 2017).

Immigration Rights

Elliot has also successfully represented asylum seekers before the Department of Homeland Security, who sought refugee status in the United States on the basis of their LGBT status or their victimization by organized crime.

Associations

- Executive Vice President and Board Member, Century City Bar Association
- Member, Hispanic National Bar Association
- Member, Mexican American Bar Association
- Member, Young Lawyers Division of the Association of Business Trial Lawyers, Los Angeles
- Board Member, Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice

Awards & Recognitions

- Lawdragon 500 X - The Next Generation, 2025
- Best Lawyers in America: Ones to Watch, Commercial Litigation, Best Lawyers®, 2024-present
- 40 & Under List, *Benchmark Litigation*, 2023-present
- Southern California Rising Stars, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2022-present

Publications & Speaking Engagements

- Co-Author, "What To Expect As Calif. Justices Weigh Arbitration Fee Law," *Law360*, August 2025
- Panelist, Collective Voices: Celebrating Latino and Hispanic Heritage Month, October 2023