



# Elliot C. Harvey Schatmeier

Principal

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☎ **310.201.2100**

**Practices:**

Appellate, Business and Financial Crimes, Complex Business Litigation, Employment, Fraud, Qui Tam, Civil RICO, Internal Investigations

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Elliot Harvey Schatmeier focuses his practice on civil litigation, arbitration, and securities. He has substantial experience representing financial institutions in business disputes, including breach of contract and business tort cases, commercial fraud, and disputes arising from complex business transactions.

He has appeared in both state and federal court and has been involved in several trials. He has represented Fortune 500 companies and large private companies in the technology, banking, real estate, healthcare, entertainment, and cannabis industries.

In securities matters, he represents publicly-traded broker-dealers in lawsuits and in customer dispute arbitrations. In cannabis matters, Elliot represents a host of businesses, including venture capital firms, commercial lenders, and ancillary businesses in lawsuits and arbitrations around the country.

Elliot's experience includes not only complex civil disputes, but also several white collar matters. He has achieved pre- and post-indictment resolutions for doctors and other healthcare professionals in healthcare cases brought by local District Attorney's Offices. In cases where criminal charges were filed, Elliot achieved favorable resolutions without criminal convictions.

Prior to joining the firm, Elliot worked at Kirkland & Ellis in New York, where he represented board members, C-suite executives, and corporations in connection with complex commercial transactions and government investigations. He has also represented defendants in several consumer protection and securities class actions.

Elliot is a graduate of Columbia Law School. While in law school, Elliot externed at the Queens County District Attorney's Office where he prosecuted several dozen domestic violence cases. After graduation, he clerked for the Honorable Henry B. Pitman of United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

# Education & Admissions

- Columbia Law School, J.D., Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar, 2013
  - University of California, Berkeley, B.A., 2008
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- California, 2018
- New York, 2014
- Court of Appeals for the Second and Eleventh Circuit
- U.S. District Court for Central District of California
- Southern District of New York
- Eastern District of New York
- U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California

## Notable Matters

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.

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Represents Compass, a Fortune 500 company and the largest real estate brokerage in the country, in a lawsuit and arbitration stemming from a former real estate broker's failed transition to Compass.

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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.

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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.

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

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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.

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## **PRO BONO EXPERIENCE**

### **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).

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### **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

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