



## Michael C. Landman

Partner

✉ [mlandman@birdmarella.com](mailto:mlandman@birdmarella.com)

☎ 310.201.2100

**Practices:**

Securities Fraud and Insider Trading, Internal Investigations, Health Care Fraud and Regulatory Enforcement, Business and Financial Crimes, Complex Business Litigation

---

**Michael Landman is a former federal prosecutor and experienced trial lawyer whom clients retain for their most complex and high-stakes civil cases and criminal investigations. He has tried and won numerous jury trials, including securing an acquittal in one of the largest fraud prosecutions ever brought by the U.S. Department of Justice.**

---

Recognized as one of Bloomberg's 40 Under 40 in 2025, Mr. Landman is a highly respected litigator who represents companies and individuals in complex civil disputes and criminal investigations. On the criminal side, Mr. Landman has successfully represented individuals and entities in matters investigated by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the California Attorney General's Office, and various local District Attorney's Offices. On the civil side, Mr. Landman leverages his extensive courtroom experience, his experience clerking for a U.S. District Court judge, and his previous role as a federal prosecutor to guide clients through their most difficult litigation challenges.

Prior to joining Bird Marella, Mr. Landman joined the U.S. Department of Justice through the Attorney General Honors Program, serving as a Trial Attorney in the DOJ's Tax Division and as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia. During his tenure at DOJ, he first-chaired more than a dozen trials and led numerous grand jury investigations. He played a key role in the Tax Division's nationwide review and authorization of criminal tax prosecutions, giving him unique insight into how charging decisions are made – knowledge particularly valuable to clients seeking to resolve matters short of indictment.

Since joining the firm, his practice has focused on representing companies and individuals in civil and criminal disputes arising from allegations of fraud. In addition to traditional business disputes, he has handled complex matters related to antitrust, accounting (revenue recognition), cryptocurrency, entertainment, illegal gambling, healthcare, public corruption, securities, sports,

and tax. His domestic and international corporate clients include those in the aviation, auto, fashion and apparel, healthcare, real estate, and venture capital industries. He has represented corporate executives at large corporations and sole proprietors of successful small businesses. Mr. Landman's trial-readiness and strategic judgment lead clients to seek his representation when the stakes are highest.

Mr. Landman has been consistently recognized for his achievements, earning consecutive Outstanding Attorney awards during his DOJ service and earning recent accolades from Bloomberg, Benchmark Litigation, the Daily Journal, Global Investigations Review, and Lawdragon 500 X.

In addition to his litigation practice, Mr. Landman dedicates a substantial portion of his time to pro bono work. His recent matters include representing survivors of domestic violence and victims of identity theft.

## Education & Admissions

- University of Virginia School of Law, J.D., Dillard Fellowship, 2015
  - Amherst College, B.A., 2009
- 

- Law Clerk to the Hon. Stefan R. Underhill, U.S. District Court, District of Connecticut
- 

- New York, 2016
- California, 2022
- U.S. District Courts: Central District of California, Northern District of California, Eastern District of New York, Southern District of New York
- Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals

## Notable Matters

### *Representative Matters at Bird Marella*

Assisted a venture capital fund in securing the return of its appreciated investment into a major aerospace company following a breakdown of the relationship between the fund and the investment vehicle used to make the investment.

---

Trial counsel defending the former VP of Finance of Autonomy Corporation in one of the largest federal fraud prosecutions brought by the U.S. Department of Justice. At trial, Mr. Landman

handled numerous key witnesses, including an audit partner at a Big Four accounting firm and the Government's accounting expert. After a three-month jury trial, secured an acquittal on all fifteen counts.

---

Defended a client charged in a money laundering investigation related to converting illicit cryptocurrency into cash. Successfully argued for a probationary sentence where the Guidelines range was significantly higher, and the Government vigorously sought a period of incarceration.

---

Complete defense victory for Compass Inc. in multi-million-dollar fraud dispute brought by rival brokerage. Plaintiff had alleged that Compass fraudulently induced it to join Compass under false pretenses and sought compensatory and punitive damages. Mr. Landman joined the team only a few weeks before trial and handled key witnesses, including both parties' experts.

---

Defended a 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. Landman conducted an internal investigation into the alleged misconduct and directed the company's responses to the SEC. The SEC promptly closed its investigation without finding any fault with the company or its executives.

---

Lead trial counsel in jury trial that resulted in multimillion-dollar verdict on behalf of a parent falsely accused of child abuse. As reported by *Law360*, the verdict finding the defendant liable for violating California Penal Code Section 11172(a)'s prohibition on false child abuse reporting was one of the first of its kind.

---

Represented a business and its CEO whose business was raided by local law enforcement and who was arrested on allegations that he was in receipt of stolen property.

---

Represented a corporate executive of a multinational entertainment company in a DOJ antitrust investigation.

---

Successfully negotiated the voluntary return of a client charged with six-figure loan fraud who was charged while residing overseas, enabling him to plead guilty while securing permission for him to

reside abroad during the pendency of the case. The client ultimately received a probationary sentence and was permitted to serve it abroad, overcoming Government opposition to any supervision outside the U.S. and avoiding the Government's recommended prison term.

---

Assisted client charged by the City Attorney's Office with a criminal offense for violating the Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 56.08, which prohibits a property owner for obstructing the public right-of-way. Mr. Landman helped the client secure a complete dismissal of the criminal charges.

---

Secured dismissal of a client's public corruption charges following the Supreme Court's decision in *Snyder v. United States*, 603 U.S. 1 (2024), which held that 18 U.S.C. § 666, which criminalizes public theft and bribery, did not criminalize giving a gratuity to a public official. Despite the client previously waiving his right to appeal his conviction, Mr. Landman convinced prosecutors to join in the request to vacate the conviction and dismiss the charges such that the client is no longer a federal felon.

---

Defended an individual facing parallel criminal and civil securities fraud actions brought by the DOJ and SEC. Mr. Landman secured a critical and rare denial of the SEC's request for a preliminary injunction and the Court dissolved the TRO restraining the client's assets.

---

Advised client who had failed to file reports of foreign bank accounts (FBARs) and wanted to get into compliance while avoiding criminal prosecution. The client came into compliance and avoided criminal prosecution.

---

Advised client in connection with insider trading investigation conducted by the SEC. No charges were filed.

---

Advised client in connection with a public corruption investigation conducted by the California Attorney General's Office. No charges were filed.

---

Advised doctor in connection with federal criminal investigation into health care fraud. No charges were filed.

---

Represented individual in connection with alleged Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan fraud. No charges were filed.

---

Mr. Landman has also advised numerous clients regarding matters that were ultimately resolved without any formal criminal charges, including:

- Failing to report foreign assets and bank accounts (FBAR violations)
  - Healthcare fraud, including representing doctors, healthcare organizations, and healthcare workers accused of violating the False Claims Act, Anti-Kickback Statute, Stark Act, and their state-law equivalents
  - PPP loan fraud
  - Insider trading
  - Illegal Gambling
  - Money Laundering
  - Mortgage fraud
- 

*Representative Matters at the U.S. Department of Justice*

Lead trial counsel in a four-week jury trial of two defendants charged with conspiracy to defraud the IRS and tax evasion, resulting in a conviction. At trial, Mr. Landman examined the Government's key cooperating witness, cross-examined the defendant, and gave closing arguments.

---

Trial counsel in a week-long jury trial of a defendant charged with tax evasion and related offenses, resulting in a conviction. At trial, Mr. Landman handled closing arguments as well as the examination of key lay and IRS witnesses.

---

Led the investigation and successful prosecution of an individual charged with pitching an investment opportunity in pre-IPO shares of a major public company. After a lengthy investigation, the defendant pleaded guilty and received a significant sentence.

---

Led the investigation and successful prosecution of the owner of a prominent Las Vegas

restaurant who was charged with underreporting cash from his business, lying to the IRS during an audit, and falsifying business records.

## Associations

- Board of Directors, Teach Democracy (formerly Constitutional Rights Foundation)
- Member, Federal Bar Association
- Member, Beverly Hills Bar Association

## Awards & Recognitions

- They've Got Next: The 40 Under 40, *Bloomberg Law*, 2025
- California Lawyer of the Year, *Daily Journal*, 2025
- Impact Case of the Year: *USA v. Lynch and Chamberlain, Benchmark Litigation*, 2025
- Lawdragon 500 X - The Next Generation, 2025-present
- Most Important Court Case of the Year, *U.S. v. Lynch et al.*, *Global Investigations Review*, 2024
- Outstanding Attorney, U.S. Department of Justice, 2020-2021
- Special Commendation, U.S. Department of Justice, 2019

## Articles & Publications

- Author, "[Mangione Dropped Charges Lay Bare Absurd Gun Crime Approach](#)," *Bloomberg Law*, February 2026
- Quoted, "[4 Ways Justices' Jarkesy Ruling Could Affect Tax Controversy](#)," *Law360: Tax Authority*, November 2025
- Author, "[2 Rulings Highlight IRS' Uncertain Civil Fraud Penalty Powers](#)," *Law360*, September 2025
- Co-Author, "[Legal issues for employers arising out of ICE raids](#)," *Daily Journal*, July 2025
- Quoted, "[Some attorneys, clients delayed in getting to court during unrest, protests](#)," *Daily Journal*, June 2025
- Quoted, "[US Attys To Shift Focus Amid Questions Of Staffing, Politics](#)," *Law360*, February 2025
- Author, "[Rank-and-File DOJ Attorneys Will Keep Calm and Carry On](#)," *Law360*, November 2024
- Co-Author, "[Eulogy of an Acquittal: 'I am an Innocent Man'](#)," *White-Collar Crime - California, Chambers and Partners Global*, October 2024
- Author, "[Five Years Since \*Marinello v United States\*](#)," February 2023