



Paul L. Garcia

Partner

Co-Chair, Clinical Laboratory Work Group

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CAPABILITIES

False Claims Act

Litigation, Mediation,
Arbitration

Managed Care

Medicare and Medicaid
Audits, Appeals, and
Reimbursement Litigation

Payor-Provider Disputes

Behavioral Health Providers

Clinical Laboratory

Counties, Health Districts,
and Public Agencies

Hospitals and Health
Systems

EDUCATION

University of Southern
California Gould School of
Law, J.D., Executive Notes
Editor, *Southern California
Law Review*, Research
Scholar, Saks Institute for
Mental Health Law, Policy
and Ethics, 2014

University of San Diego, B.A.,
magna cum laude, Political
Science, 2009

BAR ADMISSIONS

California, 2015

“Government reimbursement is the lifeblood of the healthcare system. I help providers protect that lifeline—navigating the legal and policy minefields that threaten their financial stability—so they can focus on what they do best: delivering care and driving innovation.”

Paul Garcia makes good on that promise, guiding providers and clinical laboratories through their highest-stakes reimbursement, litigation, and regulatory challenges. His strategic counsel is informed by firsthand experience developing policy within California’s Medicaid program (Medi-Cal), giving him a unique insider’s perspective on how government payors operate and where the law and business realities collide.

Paul’s clients, including hospital associations, hospital systems, and clinical laboratories, turn to him for his expertise on state Medicaid, Medicare, and audits and investigations. He provides actionable counsel on internal investigations of potential overpayments under the 60-Day Rule, develops compliance programs to protect clients from costly government scrutiny, and represents clients in litigation, particularly related to reimbursement disputes. His forward-looking guidance was critical during the COVID-19 pandemic and continues to help clients navigate the operational impact of significant new rulemaking from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Paul began his legal career with DHCS, the single-state agency that administers California’s Medicaid program (Medi-Cal). There, he provided legal counsel to develop and support Medi-Cal managed care financing and reimbursement policy, including DHCS’s implementation of the 2016 Medicaid Managed Care Final Rule as it relates to key reimbursement programs and state directed payment arrangements.

Previously, Paul served as an Executive Fellow through the prestigious Capital Fellows Program, where he worked with executive staff to implement state and federal health care reforms at Covered California. While in law school, Paul served as an extern for Hon. Kim McLane Wardlaw in the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Representative Matters

- Secured a landmark appellate victory in the in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit for a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in a major Medicaid reimbursement dispute. This precedent-setting decision has significant implications for providers seeking to challenge state Medicaid agencies. *Family Health Centers of Sw. Fla., Inc. v. Agency for Health Care Admin.*, 83 F.4th 1341 (11th Cir. 2023).
- Represents clinical laboratories in high-stakes litigation involving unpaid and underpaid COVID-19 claims under section 3202 of the federal CARES Act and related state laws.
- Negotiated settlement in 8-figure dispute with California’s Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) on behalf of major hospital system, resolving a complex multi-year dispute and preserving critical funding for patient services.
- Negotiated global settlement with Medicare Administrative Contractor on behalf of multiple clinical laboratories regarding 7-figure overpayment assessment related to laboratory panels.

Second-chaired a 5-day hearing involving 1002 pharmacy claims, securing a favorable decision regarding all but 14 claims.

Recognition

- Super Lawyers, Southern California, Rising Star, 2022-2025
- Best Lawyers, Ones to Watch, Health Care Law 2025
- San Diego Business Journal, Leaders of Influence in Law 2024

Professional Affiliations

- American Health Lawyers Association
- American Bar Association
- California Society for Healthcare Attorneys
- Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County

News

- Hooper, Lundy & Bookman Secures Major Appellate Victory for Family Health Centers of Southwest Florida in Medicaid Reimbursement Dispute
- Hooper, Lundy & Bookman Congratulates 2025 San Diego Super Lawyers
- Joseph LaMagna and Paul Garcia Named San Diego Business Journal Leaders of Influence in Law 2024
- Thirty-One HLB Attorneys Have Been Named “Best Lawyers in America 2025” and “Ones to Watch”
- David Schumacher, Paul Garcia and Sheryl Xavier Published in Thomson Reuters Westlaw Today
- Paul Garcia, Erin Sclar and Kelly Carroll Published in Law360’s Expert Analysis, “How Spending Clause Ruling May Affect Medicaid Litigation”
- Paul Garcia Quoted in Law360’s “Private Lawsuits Ruling Has Attorneys Breathing ‘Sigh of Relief’”
- HLB’s Super Lawyers’ 2023 Southern California Rising Stars
- Paul Garcia quoted in BioWorld
- Mark Reagan and Paul Garcia Quoted in Skilled Nursing News
- Paul Garcia interviewed by NPR
- Paul Garcia Quoted in McKnight’s Long-Term Care News
- Justices Could Impede Court Access With Medicaid Ruling
- Hooper, Lundy & Bookman Celebrates 35 Years!
- Hooper, Lundy & Bookman Elevates Five Partners and One Senior Counsel
- HLB Attorneys Author False Claims in Healthcare
- Hooper, Lundy & Bookman Ranked in the 2020 Edition of US News/Best Lawyers in America Best Law Firms

- Hooper, Lundy & Bookman Named To American Bar Association's Health Law Top 10 List
- Hooper, Lundy & Bookman Launches Webinar Series with Focused Discussions on Post-Acute Care Partnerships
- Hooper Lundy & Bookman Recognized Among the Top Health Law Firms in the United States by Chambers USA

Insights

- Supreme Court Imposes Formidable Barrier to Enforcing Medicaid Rights, Demanding New Strategic Approaches: *Medina v. Planned Parenthood South Atlantic*
- Texas Federal District Court Vacates Final Rule Regulating Laboratory Developed Tests
- Supreme Court Decision Overturns Deference to Agency Interpretations of the Law
- Appellate Court Issues Important FCA/AKS Decision Requiring Whistleblowers to Show That Defendants Acted with Knowledge of Unlawful Action
- CMS Publishes RFI on ACA Essential Health Benefits
- California's Health Care Quality and Affordability Act
- Clinical Labs: Vital Part of the COVID-19 Response and Now the Focus of Government Scrutiny
- Advisory Opinion on Sub-Regulatory Medicare Guidance
- Flexibilities for the California Medi-Cal Program and Medi-Cal Providers Provided by Executive Order N-55-20
- California Announces Proposal for Important Changes to the Medi-Cal Delivery System
- What the Supreme Court's *Azar v. Allina* Ruling Means for Health Care Providers
- CMS Proposes Changes to Telehealth Reimbursement, Stark, Substance Use Disorder Treatment Reimbursement, and Evaluation & Management Reimbursement in the CY 2019 Physician Fee Schedule Proposed Rule

Events

- Paul Garcia is Speaking at the California Clinical Laboratory Association's 2024 Annual Conference
- CHA's Hospital Finance Week Webinar Series
- California Society for Healthcare Attorneys 2022 Annual Meeting and Spring Seminar
- COVID-19 Financial Relief for Providers: CARES Act Provider Relief Fund, Uninsured Program, and Coverage Issues
- HLB 2019 Managed Care Update Seminar