



## 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

“I pursued a career in health care law, and with HLB, because it gives me the opportunity to represent providers that care for the needy and underserved. When I successfully resolve a reimbursement dispute or compliance issue, it is gratifying to know I play a part in helping my clients continue serving the community.”

With diverse industry experience and a commitment to his clients, Paul Garcia represents providers and clinical laboratories across the country in a wide variety of reimbursement, regulatory, compliance, and litigation matters. He protects and advocates for his clients by leveraging a deep knowledge of government health care programs, an understanding of how regulators operate, and an appreciation of how the letter of the law intersects with business and financial realities.

Paul's clients include hospital associations, hospital systems, individual hospitals, and clinical laboratories that turn to him when facing complex or contentious reimbursement issues. Underlying all of Paul's efforts is his recognition that disputes, or bureaucratic delays, can severely impair his clients' ability to serve their patients and meet legal and ethical obligations.

Leveraging his background working for the government on health care reimbursement and financing matters, Paul has productive relationships with government regulators, counsel, and staff, which facilitates him finding creative and practical resolutions for disputes with government payors. This has allowed Paul to help clients with a wide array of reimbursement matters.

Paul also assists providers and clinical laboratories with Medicaid reimbursement and Medicare claims disputes, audits, and investigations.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Paul's reimbursement acumen helped guide clients through a rapidly evolving testing and payment landscape.

Paul also works closely with clients on internal investigations of potential overpayments, providing actionable counsel regarding subsequent obligations to report and return under the 60-Day Rule. He regularly advises clients regarding compliance programs, policies, and practices to keep providers and clinical laboratories from making costly mistakes or oversights that could draw scrutiny from the government.

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. Paul began his legal career with the California Department of Health Care Services, which 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 the department's implementation of the 2016 Medicaid Managed Care Final Rule as it relates key reimbursement programs and directed-payment arrangements. In addition, Paul previously served as an Executive Fellow through the Capital Fellows Programs for Covered California, where he worked with the executive staff to implement state and federal health care reforms.

### Representative Matters

- Negotiated settlement with DHCS on behalf of major hospital system regarding 8-figure audit dispute.
- 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.
- Many other successful settlement negotiations with State Medicaid programs and Medicare.
- Successfully represented numerous clinical laboratories in Medicare claims disputes.

### 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

- HLB's 2025 San Diego Super Lawyer and Rising Stars
- 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"

### Insights

- 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

### 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