HOOPER LUNDY BOOKMAN

PARTNER

PAUL L. GARCIA

Co-Chair, Clinical Laboratory Work Group

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> "Government reimbursement is the lifeblood of the health care 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 the Department of Health Care Services (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 Experience

– 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 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.

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

CAPABILITIES

PRACTICES

False Claims Act

Litigation, Mediation, Arbitration

Managed Care

Medicare and Medicaid Audits, Appeals, and Reimbursement Litigation

Payor-Provider Disputes

SECTORS

Behavioral Health Providers

Clinical Laboratory

Counties, Health Districts, and Public Agencies

Hospitals and Health Systems

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

INSIGHT	DHCS Draft Fraud and Abuse Guidance Proposes Major Changes Affecting Providers
EVENT	Paul Garcia & Bridget Gordon To Speak at CCLA's 2026 Annual Conference
NEWS	HLB Lawyers Published in LexisNexis Practical Guidance
NEWS	Hooper, Lundy & Bookman Elevates Paul Garcia, Monica Massaro and Taryn Reid
EVENT	Paul Garcia Served as a Panelist at Global M&A Network Forum
INSIGHT	Supreme Court Imposes Formidable Barrier to Enforcing Medicaid Rights, Demanding New Strategic Approaches: Medina v. Planned Parenthood South Atlantic
NEWS	Hooper, Lundy & Bookman Secures Major Appellate Victory for Family Health Centers of Southwest Florida in Medicaid Reimbursement Dispute
INSIGHT	Texas Federal District Court Vacates Final Rule Regulating Laboratory Developed Tests
NEWS	Hooper, Lundy & Bookman Congratulates 2025 San Diego Super Lawyers
NEWS	Joseph LaMagna and Paul Garcia Named San Diego Business Journal Leaders of Influence in Law 2024

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