



Molly Knobler

Partner

Washington, DC

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Overview

Molly Knobler is proud to represent whistleblowers who stand up against unsafe, unfair, and corrupt business practices that endanger consumer and patient welfare and drain precious funds from government coffers.

The brave few who blow the whistle on fraud impacting the government, investors, patients, and consumers serve a vital purpose in our society. They are frequently thanked for their service with retribution and reprisal. Molly works tirelessly to protect these whistleblowers, ensure their stories are heard, and advocate for their just compensation.

Her experience includes *qui tam* matters involving Medicare and Medicaid fraud, as well as customs fraud and other frauds against the government. She also handles Physician Self-Referral Law (Stark law) violations, health care industry kickback schemes, government contractors' overcharging, and cybersecurity issues in technology products.

Molly also represents clients in connection with whistleblower claims with the IRS' and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's whistleblower programs, including violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

On behalf of whistleblowers, Molly has secured hundreds of millions of dollars in settlements. This includes a \$118.7 million settlement against Adventist Health Systems for alleged Stark violations and billing fraud; a \$37.5 million settlement against Prime Healthcare and its CEO and a cardiologist for an alleged kickback scheme and other allegations, and an \$11.75 million settlement with Science Applications International Corp. for allegedly inflating the costs of a government-funded program.

Before joining DiCello Levitt, Molly practiced at Phillips and Cohen LLP and ConstantineCannon LLP, two of the largest whistleblower practices in the United States.

Molly serves as a Taxpayers Against Fraud Young Lawyer's Division Board member. While earning her law degree at Stanford Law School, she served as Submissions Editor and Co-Editor In Chief of the *Stanford Journal of Animal Law and Policy*. She earned Class Prizes for Outstanding Performance in: Torts, Evidence, Administrative Law, Trusts and Estates, Intellectual Property, and Environmental Law Clinic. In addition, Molly served as President and Director of the Animal Legal Defense Fund, interned with the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine and worked as a law clerk at a legal services clinic that represented low-income and chronically ill clients.

Practice Areas

PHARMACEUTICAL FRAUD, WASTE, AND ABUSE

PUBLIC CLIENT

WHISTLEBLOWER, QUI TAM, AND FALSE CLAIMS ACT

Education

Stanford Law School, J.D.

Pomona College, B.A., *cum laude*

Representative Matters

U.S. ex rel. Payne, et al. v. Adventist Health Systems, 3:12-cv-856 (W.D.N.C.) (\$118.7 million settlement/Stark and billing violations)

U.S. ex rel. Mansukhani v. Prime Healthcare Services, 18-cv-371 (C.D. Cal.) (\$37.5 million settlement/Anti-Kickback and billing violations)

U.S. ex rel. Priem v. SAIC, 1:12-cv-148 (D.N.M.) (\$11.75 million settlement/overcharging on government services contract)

U.S. ex rel. Geraci v. Zwanger & Pesiri Radiology Group, 13-cv-5002 (E.D.N.Y.) (\$10.5 million settlement and criminal forfeiture/Medicare and Medicaid billing violations)

U.S. ex rel. Searle v. Agnesian, 14-cv-969 (E.D. Wis.) (\$10 million settlement/Stark and Anti-Kickback violations)

U.S. ex rel. Hale v. Rotech Healthcare, 14-cv-545 (E.D. Tex.) (\$9.95 million settlement/Medicare and Medicaid billing violations)

U.S. ex rel. Glenn v. Cisco Systems, 11-cv-400 (W.D.N.Y.) (\$8.6 million settlement/sale of defective video surveillance software to government purchasers)

U.S. ex rel. Patrick v. Pure Collection Ltd., 2:16-cv-230 (D. Me.) (\$908,100 settlement/customs evasion)

Additional actions re: materially defective goods sold to government purchasers, Stark and/or Anti-kickback violations, fraud on the federal Lifeline program, and fraud on the Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug Benefit (Part D) programs.

IRS submissions re: fraudulent avoidance of income taxes, improper claims for biofuel credits, and subpart F and transfer pricing violations

SEC submissions re: violation of conflict of interest rules by credit rating agencies, violation of fiduciary duties by alternative asset managers, and violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act

Awards & Honors

Washington D.C. Super Lawyers Rising Star (2018-2022)

Best Lawyers in America for Qui Tam (2023)

Publications & Presentations

Presentations:

"Does HHS Have a Handle on Climbing Medicare Payments," Federal News Network, (January 2023)

"The False Claims Act: Fraud on the Government and What You Can Do About It" (March 29, 2022) Guest lecture at George Washington University, Milliken Institute School of Public Health

"The Making of a Whistleblower: How to Provide the Right Incentives to Report Fraud Internally and What Happens When You Don't" Clear Law Institute (November 2016)

"Protecting Whistleblower Anonymity" Taxpayers Against Fraud Education Fund False Claims Act Annual Conference (September 2016, Washington, DC)

"Federal Qui Tam Litigation: A Primer for the Newcomer to Federal Whistleblower Actions" SUNY Buffalo Law School and the Law Alumni Association's GOLD Group CLE Program (March 2016, Buffalo)

"Enforcement Trends in Risk Adjustment: DOJ and the False Claims Act" SSN's Medicare Risk Adjustment and Revenue Management Conference (November 2015, Miami)

Articles:

Taxpayers Against Fraud, Fraud by the Numbers Series, September 2022:

- “On Clean Air Day, Whistleblowers Needed to Ensure IRA Implementation”
- “Who Can We Rely on When the Watchdogs are Not Doing Their Jobs? Whistleblowers.”
- “There’s Billions in ‘Other’ Frauds Outside of Healthcare and Defense Contracting”
- “Private Equity Investment in Healthcare is Skyrocketing; Grandma Should Be Scared”
- “Mind the Tax Gap!”

Taxpayers Against Fraud, Fraud by the Numbers Series, September 2021:

- “Could the False Claims Act be Used to Combat Fraud by Polluters?”
- “How Many Americans Are Covered by Government-Funded Healthcare?”
- “The Billions Lost to Healthcare Fraud”
- “Fraud in the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars”
- “How Whistleblowers Encourage Patient Safety”
- “How DOJ Task Forces Fight Fraud”
- “Relator Share vs. CEO Compensation”

“Risks of Being Acquired by Non-Hospital Entities” (January 2016) Physicians Practice

“A Legally Compliant Practice: Necessary but Insufficient for Good Medicine?” (November 2015) Compliance and Ethics Blog

“DOJ’s Adventist Settlement Puts the Power of Whistleblowers in ‘Stark’ Relief” (September 2015) Compliance and Ethics Blog

“Moving Beyond the ‘Ag’ in ‘Ag-Gag’: The Next Wave of Anti-Whistleblower Legislation?” (August 2015) Huffington Post

“Is the FDA Ready for Kim Kardashian and Mutant Head Lice?” (August 2015) Huffington Post

Admissions & Memberships

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia

California

Court Admissions

United States Tax Court

District of Columbia

U.S. District Court, Northern District of California

U.S. District Court, Central District of California

U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois

U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Wisconsin