BIRD MARELLA LLP

BIRD • MARELLA • RHOW • LINCENBERG • DROOKS • NESSIM

Michael C. Landman

Associate

✉ mlandman@birdmarella.com

📞 310.201.2100

Practices:

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

---

Michael Landman is an experienced trial lawyer who has tried and won numerous trials, including an acquittal in one of the largest fraud prosecutions ever brought by the U.S. Department of Justice. He is frequently engaged by clients before charges are filed and helps them avoid charges and enforcement actions.

Mr. Landman began his career in the Attorney General Honors Program at the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), where he first-chaired over a dozen trials. Mr. Landman utilizes his trial experience and knowledge of government investigations to assist clients facing federal or state criminal charges related to financial fraud, including those relating to cryptocurrency.

On the criminal side, Mr. Landman has represented individuals and entities in matters investigated by the DOJ, the IRS, the SEC, the California Attorney General's Office, and various local District Attorney's Offices. On the civil side, Mr. Landman has been brought on to represent large national and international companies when it is clear the case is headed to trial. Given his extensive experience as a trial lawyer, he is well-suited to take civil and criminal cases to trial.

During his time at the DOJ's Tax Division, Mr. Landman earned consecutive Outstanding Attorney awards for his investigations and trial victories. During his investigations, Mr. Landman examined numerous lay and government witnesses in the grand jury. Mr. Landman was also involved in the Tax Division's review and authorization of criminal tax prosecutions throughout the country. His knowledge of the review and approval process is particularly useful for clients wishing to resolve criminal tax cases short of indictment.

Mr. Landman dedicates a sizable portion of his time to pro bono matters. Some of his recent pro bono matters include assisting domestic violence survivors who have unfairly and unknowingly accrued significant tax or tax-related debts stemming from their ex-spouse's conduct. Prior to working at the DOJ, Mr. Landman served as a law clerk for District Court Judge Stefan R. Underhill in the District of Connecticut.

Education & Admissions

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

- 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

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 individual facing parallel criminal and civil securities fraud actions brought by the DOJ and SEC. Mr. Landman successfully briefed and argued against the SEC's request for a preliminary injunction. The Court denied the SEC's request for an injunction and 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.

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

- Member, Federal Bar Association

Awards & Recognitions

- 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

- 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