



Edgar Bueno
Partner

Tel 912.236.0261
Fax 912.236.4936
www.huntermaclean.com
ebueno@huntermaclean.com

PRACTICE AREAS

Government Investigations & White-Collar Defense
Health Care
Health Care Compliance & Regulation
Health Care Litigation & Qui Tam Investigations
HIPAA & Health Care Cybersecurity Litigation

INDUSTRIES

Health Care

LICENSED IN

Georgia
Virginia

EDUCATION

George Washington School of Law: J.D., 1997 (Moot Court)
University of Chicago: B.A., 1992

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Health Lawyers Association
Health Care Compliance Association

EXPERIENCE

Edgar Bueno is co-chair of HunterMaclean's health care practice group where he advises clients on a broad range of regulatory and compliance-related matters, including the Anti-Kickback Statute, the Physician Self-Referral (Stark) Law, Medicare/Medicaid regulations, professional licensure, voluntary self-disclosure, OIG program exclusions, corporate integrity agreements, EMTALA, and HIPAA.

Edgar is also a partner in the litigation practice group where his focus is on defending individuals and organizations involved in healthcare fraud investigations, False Claims Act litigation, payer audits, and other civil, criminal, and administrative proceedings brought by federal or state authorities.

Because of his litigation and prior government experience, Edgar is also called upon to conduct compliance reviews and internal investigations for business organizations to assess and respond to risk.

Edgar is a former Assistant U.S. Attorney and Chief of the Civil Division for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Georgia. In this role, he supervised the entire division and managed all aspects of federal court litigation for numerous high-profile cases. Under his tenure, the office achieved an unprecedented number of FCA actions and recoveries on behalf of the United States. He started his legal career as an enforcement attorney with the Office of Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Edgar is nationally recognized for his knowledge and expertise in healthcare fraud and compliance and is a frequent author and speaker on those subjects. Edgar is also an adjunct instructor of health law and teaches a course about the federal healthcare programs. He has served as an instructor at the Department of Justice training center (NAC) and the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC). Edgar has received several recognitions from the Office of Inspector General for exceptional achievement in combatting healthcare fraud.

REPRESENTATIVE ENGAGEMENTS

- Represented a large physician practice in a False Claims Act qui tam action involving numerous allegations of health care fraud and abuse. The case included a successful appeal to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals regarding whistleblower share and attorney fees.
- Represented a chain of nursing homes and its owner in a False Claims Act investigation involving improper Medicare billing of services. The engagement included the negotiation of a corporate integrity agreement with the

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Leadership Southeast Georgia: Class of 2025
Pro Bono Representation
Volunteer Football Coach (middle school)

RECOGNITION

Best Lawyers in America: Health Care Law, 2024
Law 360 Editorial Advisory Board for Compliance, 2024

OIG.

- Represented a national teleradiology company and its owner in a False Claims Act qui tam action regarding allegations of improper billing.
- Represented a cardiology practice and a podiatry practice in a False Claims Act qui tam action involving allegations of upcoding, Stark Law and Anti-Kickback violations, and substandard quality of care. A central issue involved the ownership structure of a surgery center.
- Represented a physician practice in a False Claims Act qui tam action involving allegations of Anti-Kickback violations through “sham” agreements with outside vendors and suppliers.
- Represented a hospital in a False Claims Act qui tam action involving outpatient hyperbaric oxygen therapy and other wound care services. DOJ declined to intervene and the matter was dismissed.
- Represented an orthopedic practice in a False Claims Act investigation involving allegations of improper injections and treatments.
- Represented a pain practice in a multi-district OIG investigation involving allegations of improper treatment, billing, and lab orders.
- Represented a podiatry practice in a large health care fraud investigation. No criminal charges were filed, and the case was resolved through a civil settlement.
- Represented a pulmonology practice in a False Claims Act investigation involving billing for critical care services, documentation, and allegations of upcoding.
- Represented business owners and health care providers prosecuted by the DOJ Healthcare Fraud Strike Force in conjunction with Operations Brace Yourself, Double Helix, and Rubber Stamp.
- Represented several clinical and genetic testing laboratories in DOJ fraud investigations.
- Represented pharmacies, pharmacists, and other providers/registrants in DEA and state investigations involving dispensing, storage, and violations of the Controlled Substances Act.
- Represented several behavioral health providers in state and federal investigations involving allegations of improper billing, inadequate documentation, and resident misconduct.
- Represented several hospitals before state surveyors and the OIG for alleged EMTALA violations. The engagements included reviews and revisions

to policies and procedures.

- Represented a medical supply company in a COVID related criminal investigation and forfeiture action.
- Represented an accredited college in a “diploma mill” investigation by the Department of Education, FBI, and IRS. No criminal charges were filed.
- Represented several government contractors in criminal investigations involving allegations of kickbacks and contract steering. The government closed the investigations with no charges being filed.
- Represented a global freight and logistics contractor in a False Claims Act qui tam investigation that resulted in DOJ declining the case.
- Represented providers, business associates, and other covered entities in OCR investigations for alleged HIPAA privacy and security violations.

ARTICLES

HHS Releases 2025 Strategic Plan for AI in Healthcare: What Providers Need to Know

Published February 24, 2025, by Matt Wilmot and Edgar Bueno

How the DOJ's New Immigration Enforcement Efforts Will Impact Employers

Published January 28, 2025, by Edgar Bueno and Mills Fleming

FRAUD ALERT: Anti-Kickback Risks in Skin Allograft Sales

Published December 6, 2024, by Edgar Bueno and Matt Wilmot

Federal Judge Rules False Claims Act Whistleblower Provision Unconstitutional

Published October 14, 2024, by Edgar Bueno and Mills Fleming

Following the Trends: Georgia Medicaid Fraud Unit Targets Dental Practices

Published October 8, 2024, by Edgar Bueno and Matt Wilmot

UPDATE: Scope of Practice Expansion for Georgia Advanced Practice Registered Nurses and Physician Assistants, Now Includes Schedule II Controlled Substances

Published August 29, 2024, by Matt Wilmot and Edgar Bueno

FTC's Non-Compete Ban Faces Legal Roadblock

Published July 10, 2024, by Matt Wilmot, Edgar Bueno, Mills Fleming, Tom Culen, Brad Harmon, and Shawn Kachmar

Healthcare Provider Upcoding in Government Investigation Crosshairs

Published October 21, 2021, by Edgar Bueno, Hannah L. Cross, and Matt Wilmot

PRESENTATIONS

DOJ and OIG Enforcement Update

Georgia Hospital Association and Georgia Society of Healthcare Compliance and Privacy Leaders, Annual Conference, September 2024

The Revised OIG Compliance Guidance

Georgia Society of Healthcare Compliance and Privacy Leaders, Roundtable Discussion, May 2024

Discovery Hot Topics in FCA Litigation

The Compliance Institute, Health Care Compliance Association, April 2023

FCA Investigations: Responding to a Civil Investigative Demand

Health Care Enforcement & Compliance Conference, Health Care Compliance Association, November 2023

Updates to the Stark Law and the Anti-Kickback Safe Harbors

Georgia Hospital Association
Compliance Officer's Annual Retreat, September 2022