

COVID-19 TESTING FRAUD WHISTLEBLOWER LAWSUIT RESULTS IN \$5 MILLION FEDERAL SETTLEMENT

Estate of Medicare Fraud Whistleblower Linda Rubino Secures Recovery Against ASAP Labs Sales Representative Lawrence Waldman

Audrey Schechter and Andrea Fischer are pleased to announce the resolution of a major False Claims Act *qui tam* lawsuit resulting in a \$5,000,000 federal settlement. Our courageous client, Linda Rubino, filed United States ex rel. Linda Rubino v. Larry Waldman, et al., Case No. 8:20-cv-1292 (M.D. Fla.) in June 2020. Ms. Rubino exposed a widespread healthcare fraud scheme involving Covid-19 testing. Sadly, Ms. Rubino passed away during the pendency of this litigation and was unable to see her case brought to final resolution.

The Fraud Scheme

Mr. Waldman, a sales representative for ASAP Labs — a clinical medical laboratory in Davie, Florida — paid remuneration to physicians to sign requisition forms for medically unnecessary diagnostic tests, including COVID-19 testing, respiratory panel testing, cardiac conditions testing, and genetic testing, none of which were approved by treating physicians or other authorized medical professional who attested to the medical necessity of the tests. These claims, tainted by illegal kickbacks and fraud, were used to support false claims for Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement during the period from March 2020 through November 2022.

Criminal Conviction and Civil Settlement

On July 31, 2025, Mr. Waldman pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to solicit and receive illegal remuneration (kickbacks and bribes) in violation of federal law. The \$5,000,000 settlement resolves the United States' and the State of Florida's civil claims arising from this conduct. Of the total settlement amount, \$3,284,467 is credited toward criminal restitution and \$380,000 toward criminal forfeiture in Waldman's related criminal case.

Whistleblower's Share

Pursuant to the *qui tam* provisions of the False Claims Act, 31 U.S.C. § 3730, the Estate of Linda Rubino is entitled to 25% of each settlement payment received by the United States. Ms. Schechter and Ms. Fischer represented the Relator and her Estate throughout this matter.

"Linda Rubino had the courage to come forward and expose serious fraud against government healthcare programs that affects every American taxpayer," said Audrey Hildes Schechter, Esq. "We are proud to have represented her and that we were able to see this case through to a successful resolution. The False Claims Act's whistleblower provisions exist precisely for situations like this — to empower individuals who witness wrongdoing to take action and share in the recovery."

The Public Private Partnership

Audrey Schechter and Andrea Fischer had the great pleasure of working with Assistant United States Attorney Kelley Howard-Allen (M.D. FL) throughout the duration of this six-year long case. Without this partnership, we would have been unable to resolve this matter and to return the fraudulently obtained money to the public fisc. Ms. Schechter and Ms. Fischer greatly value

their relationship with Ms. Howard-Allen as well as the wonderful public servants of the Middle District of Florida's United States Attorney's Office.

NOTE: This settlement is not an admission of liability by Lawrence Waldman beyond the facts set forth in his criminal Plea Agreement and Settlement Agreement.