

False Claims Act & Whistleblower

Drawing upon years of experience in high-profile government investigations such as Watergate, Iran Contra, WorldCom, and the Hurricane Katrina investigations, we have the knowledge and expertise to lead our clients through the civil, criminal and regulatory investigations under the False Claims Act.

Each year, billions of dollars are paid by the government due to false claims for payment, healthcare fraud, fraudulent tax returns, and securities scams. The sheer number and complexity of these schemes outpaces the ability of the government to identify, investigate, and recover the false claims for payment. The fraudulent schemes include, for example, billing for unnecessary procedures; over-billing, double-billing, or upcoding; falsifying data to secure government approvals for drugs or devices; providing kickbacks to induce the use of drugs or devices; providing defective or worthless services; marketing and promoting drugs and devices for unapproved or un-cleared uses; failing to give Medicare and Medicaid the best price for drugs; and billing for unallowable costs in defense contracts.

Federal and state whistleblower programs reward individuals for providing information on undisclosed frauds. The primary federal law is the False Claims Act ("FCA"), also known as the Lincoln Act. It is intended to encourage, protect and reward citizens who come forward with information to assist the government in identifying fraudulent claims and practices related to healthcare, defense, and other federal spending programs.

Under the FCA, a private person can sue another private party on behalf of the federal government in what is called a *qui tam* suit. If the federal government collects a settlement or court judgment because of the information provided by the *qui tam* plaintiff, the government is required to pay a portion of the recovery to the plaintiff.

Whether filing or defending a *qui tam* lawsuit, the process requires experienced attorneys who know the statute, the law, and the procedural requirements to achieve success.

Contact Andrew M. Beato (abeato@steinmitchell.com) if you know of a fraudulent practice in a government program or contract.

News

Stein Mitchell Represented a Successful Whistleblower in \$50 million Settlement of a Civil Fraud Lawsuit
01.19.2017

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Worth the price? Push for cheaper generic drugs has Canadians buying questionable medicines from India

Whistleblower represented by Andrew Beato uncovers questionable manufacturing standards, manipulated records and defective drugs at Ranbaxy Laboratories

Originally Published in The National Post

Making India Inc. Accountable

Andrew Beato cited in article that states, "It is not the responsibility of the government alone to act in order to curb corruption; corporate firms need to be proactive as well in checking fraudulent financial practices"

Originally Published in The Hindu

Drug Batch Tainted? Just Hit Delete and Ship It to the U.S.

Bloomberg article quotes Andrew Beato, "There's a pattern of conduct at other companies that are similar, if not identical, to the Ranbaxy problems"

Originally Published in Bloomberg Business

Number of Indians Turning Whistle-Blowers in U.S. on the Rise

Whistleblower Dinesh Thakur's attorney, Andrew Beato, says Ranbaxy suit has sparked increase in violation reports due to raised awareness of the False Claims Act

Originally Published in The Economic Times

Stein Mitchell Muse Cipollone & Beato LLP Announces \$16.5 Million False Claims Act Settlement for Unnecessary Heart Procedures Performed by St. Joseph Health System

Kentucky Hospital Settles Allegations that Physicians Performed Unnecessary Open-Heart Procedures and Maintained Improper Financial Relationships with Physicians in Violation of Kickback and Stark Laws

Press Release

Ranbaxy Whistleblower Reveals How He Exposed Massive Pharmaceutical Fraud in a CBS News Report

Correspondent John Miller interviews Ranbaxy whistleblower Dinesh Thakur represented by Washington D.C. Attorneys Andrew Beato and Bob Muse

Press Release

Stein Mitchell Muse Cipollone & Beato LLP Announces Largest Generic Drug Whistleblower Settlement in History

India's Largest Generic Drugmaker Ranbaxy Pays \$500 Million to Settle Systemic Generic Drug Manufacturing Fraud

Press Release

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