



## → Melissa K. Eaves

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Melissa Eaves is special counsel in the White Collar Defense and Corporate Investigations Practice Group in the firm's Los Angeles office.

### Areas of Practice

Melissa currently focuses her practice on complex civil litigation, fraud, investigations white collar criminal defense and False Claims Act litigation. She has been practicing more than 30 years and has substantial experience in TVPRA/human trafficking litigation, American with Disabilities Act and FTC litigation, compliance investigations, FAR MDR reviews and insolvency litigation. Melissa was part of the team that recently won a complete defense victory in a human trafficking case.

Melissa has successfully represented numerous individuals and entities in connection with a wide range of federal and state investigations and prosecutions. In civil litigation, she has successfully represented both clients in both state and federal court.

In addition to complex litigation and white collar defense work, Melissa handles internal investigations for companies. She is an experienced and skilled investigator, handling investigatory matters involving whistleblower claims, harassment and workplace misconduct, criminal misconduct, and healthcare fraud. She has also worked with governmental agencies such as the OIG, DOJ, FTC, SEC, and HHS in connection with such investigations.

Melissa has also obtained complete defense verdicts in trials involving ADA claims. In addition, she has represented the California Insurance Commissioner in the Executive Life Insurance Company, First Capital and Mission Insurance Group insolvencies and reinsurance litigation, involving over 300 reinsurers worldwide, representing recoveries in excess of \$1.3 billion. Melissa has substantial litigation experience in both state and federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court, enforcing judgments abroad and supervision of domestic and foreign outside counsel.

## Experience

### Representative Matters:

- Senior member of team in TVPRA case obtaining summary judgment on all claims.
- Tried three ADA cases to complete defense verdict.
- Senior member of a trial team representing Fry's Electronics in a \$100 million fraud action. Melissa was responsible for coordination of discovery and experts. The case settled on favorable terms shortly before

trial.

- Acted as “second chair” in a multi-million dollar defense action brought by the Federal Trade Commission in a false advertising case. The matter was complicated by an ongoing criminal investigation and ultimately settled prior to trial.
- Acted as “second chair” in fraud litigation involving a multi-million dollar real estate venture that was settled favorably on the eve of trial.
- Played a senior role in a year-long False Claims Act Mandatory Disclosure Rule “LookBack” investigation for Northrop Grumman Corporation.
- Acted as “second chair” in a trial involving an insurance insolvency rehabilitation as well as a senior role in litigation seeking recovery of facultative and treaty reinsurance proceeds that yielded more than \$1.3 billion to the estate.

#### **Notable Engagements:**

- *Quackenbush v. Allstate Ins. Co.* (517 U.S. 706, 1996).
- *Quackenbush v. Allstate Ins. Co.* (121 F.3d 1371, 1997).
- *Quackenbush v. Mission Ins. Co.* (62 Cal. App. 4th 797, 1998).
- *Quackenbush v. Mission Ins. Co.* (46 Cal. 4th 458, 1996).
- *In re Mission Ins. Co. (Imperial)*, (41 Cal. App. 4th 828, 1995).
- *Sunburst Bank, N.A. v. Executive Life Ins. Co.* (24 Cal. App. 4th 1156, 1994).
- *Prudential Ins. Co. v. Garamendi* (3 Cal. 4th 1118, 1992).
- *California Automobile Assigned Risk Plan v. Garamendi* (232 Cal. App. 3d. 904, 1991).

## Articles

- Justices Appear to Seek Limiting Principle in FCA Case  
*Daily Journal*, 04.22.2016
- Best Practices For Corporate Internal Investigations  
*Law360*, 03.11.2014

#### **Healthcare Law Blog Posts**

- “Tips for the Unwary: Precautions Against Liability for Healthcare Businesses Receiving CARES Act Funds,”  
June 2, 2020

## Media Mentions

Sheppard Mullin Signs Six from Mayer Brown  
*The Recorder*, 01.05.2009

## Events

CARES Act Oversight & Enforcement

First Target: Organized Crime/Fraudsters. Next: Legitimate Businesses. Make Sure It's Not You!  
Webinar, 05.14.2020

Sheppard Mullin & Control Risks FCPA Workshop

Preventing Corruption: Good Business Practices = Good Business  
05.12.2010

## Podcasts & Webinars

CARES Act Oversight & Enforcement

05.14.2020

## Practices

White Collar Defense and Corporate Investigations

Litigation

Government Contracts, Investigations & International Trade

False Claims Act

## Education

J.D., Pepperdine Caruso School of Law, 1985

B.A., University of California, Los Angeles, 1982

## Admissions

California

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California

U.S. Supreme Court

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth and Ninth Circuits

U.S. District Courts for the Central and Northern Districts of California