

Daily Journal

OCTOBER 30, 2024

TOP BOUTIQUES IN CALIFORNIA 2024

CELEBRATING CALIFORNIA'S SMALL BUT MIGHTY SPECIALIZED LAW FIRMS

Doll Amir & Eley LLP

LOS ANGELES & MANHATTAN BEACH

HEALTH CARE, IP & FINANCIAL SERVICES



From left: Paul Torres, Mary Tesh Glarum, Michael M. Amir and Jamie Kendall

The three friends who joined forces in 2005 as Doll Amir & Eley LLP wanted to fuse big firm litigation skills with the emphasis on flexibility and work-life balance more commonly found in boutiques. Now, 20 years later, the friendships and the vision endure.

As the shop grew to 16 lawyers, its dual nature was expressed in its two offices. "We maintain our strategic presence downtown near the courts to serve our needs as litigators," said managing partner Hunter R. Eley. "At the same time, the South Bay is rich with talented attorneys who want a sophisticated litigation practice in a better location."

Founding partners Eley, Gregory L. Doll and Michael M. Amir have maintained their warm relationship — so close they launched on a handshake without a partnership agreement — as they attracted a client roster that includes Amazon.com, Capital One Financial Corp., Citibank N.A., Heritage Provider Network Inc., Molina Healthcare Inc., HP Inc., Tesla, Inc., Verizon Communications Inc., Wintrust Financial Corp. and Yahoo.

Additional partners include Jason B. Baim, Amy I. Borlund, Mary Tesh Glarum, Jamie O. Kendall and Paul M. Torres.

Eley said there's plenty of work. "Business keeps us hopping between our two locations." Their office near the surf in Manhattan Beach, Amir added, is ideal for recharging their litigation batteries. "The firm still focuses on ensuring a healthy work-life balance. Some use lunchtime for beach activities such as surfing, paddleboarding or taking a cold plunge, while some of us go to hot yoga or for a run. It is a great way to blow off steam and stay focused."

Last year, Amir and Glarum secured a favorable jury verdict on behalf of a health care defendant sued by one of the largest emergency room groups in the United States over alleged insurance contract violations. The ask: \$30 million in damages. After the court granted Amir's motion to exclude a portion of the plaintiff's expert testimony during his trial examination, the jury returned a verdict that flatly rejected the damages request. Instead, the jury awarded a fraction of what the ER group sought in the lawsuit. *CEP America-California v. Heritage Provider Network Inc. et al.*, BC649353 (L.A. Super. Ct., filed Feb. 3, 2017).

Eley prevailed on an issue of first impression to defeat statewide class action claims

at the pleading stage on behalf of one of the nation's largest insurance companies. The question involved the interpretation of Insurance Code Section 418(c)(1), which governs disclosure of cancellation fees. The case is on appeal. *Lancaster v. Permanent General Assurances Corp.*, CO-99254 (3d DCA, filed Aug. 21, 2023).

"After multiple rounds of pleadings challenges, the court found in favor of our client on the merits and dismissed all claims," Eley said.

Late last year, Amir and Torres obtained a preliminary injunction on behalf of a health care company against a provider who had allegedly misappropriated the client's confidential, proprietary information. *Oasis Independent Medical Associates, Inc. v. Lopez, et al.*, CVPS2304878 (Riverside Co. Super. Ct., filed Oct. 6, 2023).

"We've brought on some younger talent over the last 12 months," Eley said. "Our practice is to recruit attorneys with diverse backgrounds from big firms. When they come here, they build on the enviable skill set they acquired at firms with a high standard of excellence, then deploy their talents here."

— John Roemer