The National Health Care Anti-Fraud Association is proud to present the United States of America v. Esformes et al. investigation and prosecution teams with this year’s Investigation of the Year Award.

From approximately January 1998 through July 2016, Philip Esformes led an extensive health care fraud conspiracy involving a network of assisted living facilities and skilled nursing facilities that he owned. Esformes bribed physicians to admit patients into his facilities, and then cycled the patients through his facilities, where they often failed to receive appropriate medical services or received medically unnecessary services. Esformes billed Medicare and Medicaid $1.3 billion in false claims.

The investigation team armed prosecutors with undercover recordings, financial documents, text messages, and testimony from convicted associates. The case was built upon conspiracy charges involving healthcare fraud, bribery, paying and receiving kickbacks, money laundering, and obstruction of justice. Esformes was convicted on 20 of the 26 charges for which he was indicted which included nine counts of money laundering, one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering, four counts of payment of kickbacks in connection with a federal healthcare program, two counts of receipt of kickbacks with a federal healthcare program, two counts of conspiracy to commit federal program bribery, one count of conspiracy to defraud the United States, and one count of obstruction of justice.

Assistant Attorney General Benczkowski called the Esformes conspiracy “one of the largest health care fraud schemes in U.S. history” and commended the prosecutors and law enforcement partners for their “professionalism and unyielding pursuit of justice on behalf of American taxpayers and vulnerable beneficiaries who, as a result of Esformes's crimes, were denied the level of care that they needed and deserved.”

On September 12, 2019, Esformes was ordered to spend 20 years in federal prison. Forfeiture and restitution will be decided at a hearing in November 2019.
CONGRATULATIONS TO

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