



# United States of America v. Pamela Antell

**T**he National Health Care Anti-Fraud Association is proud to recognize the **United States of America v. Pamela Antell** investigation and prosecution teams with this year's **SIRIS Investigation of the Year Award**.

Shortly after opening the investigation, the Federal Bureau of Investigation submitted a Request for Investigation Assistance (RIA) through NHCAA's Special Investigation Resource and Intelligence System (SIRIS) seeking information from private insurance companies regarding their potential exposure to the scheme. Numerous companies responded to the RIA, allowing law enforcement to better understand the true scope of the fraud. Several of the responding companies provided continuing assistance in the case, becoming true investigative partners.

The investigation revealed that Dr. Antell, a psychologist from Illinois, billed Medicare and private insurance for mental health services she did not provide, and used patients' identifying information without their consent to create fraudulent claims. Furthermore, Dr. Antell attempted to obstruct justice by instructing a former patient to lie to investigators. Despite legal and contractual requirements to maintain patient records, Dr. Antell maintained virtually no patient records for anyone purportedly under her care.

In September 2018, Dr. Antell was indicted on five counts of health care fraud and three counts of aggravated identity theft. Dr. Antell ultimately pleaded guilty to one count of health care fraud and, in September 2019, was sentenced to six months imprisonment, a \$100,000 fine, and nearly \$1.5 million in restitution.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Mary Jo Kleefisch, *Staff Operations Specialist*

Karl D. Kraywinkle, *Special Agent*

Javier Ruiz, CPA, CFE, *Forensic Accountant*

### AETNA

Sandra P. Miller, AHFI, *Senior Investigator*

### BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD OF ILLINOIS

Stephanie D. Tabak, AHFI, *Lead Investigator*

### OPTUM BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Kimberlyn Janata-Bell, *Senior Investigator*