

For Immediate Release

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**MAJOR FOOD RETAILER Ahold USA PAYS \$40 MILLION
TO SETTLE FALSE CLAIMS SUIT**

PITTSBURGH, PA (June 11, 2026) – Pietragallo Gordon Alfano Bosick & Raspanti, LLP announced today that Relator Lawrence LaBenne, represented by lead counsel Michael A. Morse, along with the United States Department of Justice and the United States Attorney’s Office for the Western District of Pennsylvania, has reached a settlement with Ahold Delhaize USA, Inc. and affiliated entities resolving allegations brought under the federal False Claims Act concerning reporting of prescription drug pricing to federal healthcare programs.

The Defendant – Ahold USA

Ahold Delhaize USA, a division of global food retailer Ahold Delhaize, is part of the U.S. family of brands, which also includes five leading omnichannel grocery brands – Food Lion, Giant Food, The GIANT Company, Hannaford and Stop & Shop. When considered together, the companies of Ahold Delhaize USA comprise the largest grocery retail group on the East Coast and the fourth largest in the nation, serving millions of omnichannel customers each week.

The Relator – Lawrence LaBenne

Lawrence LaBenne, who worked as a Staff Pharmacist at a pharmacy now owned by ADUSA, alleged in his *Qui Tam* lawsuit that, between at least 2013 through September 2017, ADUSA pharmacies operated prescription savings programs (“ADUSA PSPs”) pursuant to which enrolled members received discounted prices on prescription drugs; that, in light of the features and operations of those ADUSA PSPs, and the applicable Medicare Part D, Medicaid, and TRICARE program requirements, the discounted ADUSA PSP prices should have been reported as “usual and customary” prices on claims submitted to Medicare Part D, Medicaid, and TRICARE; and that ADUSA pharmacies failed to do so, causing Medicare Part D, Medicaid, and TRICARE to pay inflated amounts on such claims. Mr. LaBenne alleged that, as a Staff Pharmacist, he saw charges submitted to Medicare that, in some cases, were inflated by more than 1,000% over the proper charge.

The Settlement

Under the terms of the settlement announced by the United States Department of Justice and the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Pennsylvania, ADUSA will pay the United States and various State Medicaid Programs (including the Medicaid Programs of Virginia, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania) \$40 million, plus interest.

In recognition of his effort in bringing this action, Mr. LaBenne shall receive 18.5% of the proceeds of the settlement in addition to a resolution of his attorneys' fees claim. The United States did not file its own complaint, but intervened in Mr. LaBenne's Complaint for purposes of settlement. Mr. LaBenne is represented by partners Michael A. Morse, Esquire and Alexander M. Owens, Esquire, of Pietragallo Gordon Alfano Bosick & Raspanti, LLP, and Cory Buland, Esquire, Steven M. Shepard, Esquire, and Samir Doshi, Esquire of Susman Godfrey, LLP.

Lead Counsel Michael Morse said:

“Larry LaBenne, a Staff Pharmacist working at a local pharmacy, bravely stepped forward to expose a multistate scheme by ADUSA-owned pharmacies to overcharge Medicare, Medicaid, and other government funded healthcare programs for prescription medication. Without Mr. LaBenne's steadfast courage in blowing the whistle, this fraud would have gone undetected and essential government healthcare programs would have been forced to pay millions more than they should have for thousands of prescription medications.

Our legal team devoted thousands of hours over the past eight years working closely with the United States Department of Justice, and the United States Attorney's Office in Pittsburgh, to uncover compelling evidence of Defendants' fraud and to assist in the return of more than \$40 million to Medicare, Medicaid, and other government funded programs.”

Alexander Owens said:

“This case demonstrates the critical role that the partnership between private citizen whistleblowers, their experienced legal counsel, and the government plays in safeguarding essential federal and state taxpayer-funded programs, like Medicare and Medicaid.”

The lawsuit is captioned *United States et al. ex rel. Lawrence LaBenne v. Koninklijke Ahold Delhaize N.V., et al.*, Case No. 2:18-cv-000925 (W.D. Pa.).

About Pietragallo Gordon Alfano Bosick & Raspanti, LLP

[Pietragallo Gordon Alfano Bosick & Raspanti, LLP](#) is one of the largest and most successful whistleblower law firms in the United States. Members of Pietragallo's nationwide whistleblower team have served for more than 36 years as lead counsel in *qui tam* cases that have recovered over \$2 billion for federal and state taxpayers. Pietragallo has five offices throughout Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and New Jersey from which we serve our clients in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.