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Union of American Eye Care Providers**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**UNION OF AMERICAN EYE CARE PROVIDERS  
INITIATES ANTI-TRUST COMPLAINT AGAINST  
LEADING VISION CARE PLANS**



AGOURA HILLS, CA, July 29, 2014 – The **Union of American Eye Care Providers** (<http://www.TheAADO.org>) announced today that it has held its first face-to-face meeting with key members of the Department of Justice’s Healthcare Anti-Trust Division. The Union was represented at the meeting, held on July 24, 2014, at the DOJ offices in Washington, D.C., by the Union’s Executive Director Craig Steinberg, O.D., J.D., along with Trustees Steve Silberberg, O.D., Ed Melman, O.D., and David Hettler, O.D. The organization was joined in the meeting by its anti-trust attorneys, David Balto, Esq., and James Kovac, Esq. Prior to the meeting the Union’s attorneys submitted to the DOJ legal staff a detailed “white paper” laying the factual and legal foundation for the Union’s position.

According to Union Executive Director Dr. Craig Steinberg, “This meeting was the Union’s first opportunity to lay out, in detail and in person, its view of the anti-competitive effects that result from the vision care plan industry’s increasingly intrusive rules and policies, and how those rules and policies are harming patients and leading to higher prices, lower quality, and less choice. From the questions and discussion that lasted nearly 90 minutes, it was clear that the Department is very interested in learning more about how these plans are affecting competition in the vision care market, and in hearing what we had to say. From here our lawyers will take over, setting out the legal arguments in favor of a formal investigation by the DOJ.”

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**About the Union of American Eye Care Providers:**

The **Union of American Eye Care Providers**, operated by the **American Association of Doctors of Optometry** (AADO), a tax-exempt 501(c)(6) non-profit corporation, is an organization of eye care providers, including optometrists, ophthalmologists, and opticians, whose purpose is to improve access to and the quality of eye care in the United States by removing barriers to quality care created by oppressive and unfair business practices by third-party payers, removing the barriers to free competition among eye

care providers that vision care plans have created, and by advancing and protecting the interests of eye care providers during times of significant change in American health care delivery. With the support of Union's members, the Union can do that which individual providers have neither the means nor power to do alone, and which groups of providers cannot do collectively. The result will be that consumers in need of eye care will have access to providers that control their own independent practices and are able to once again offer cost-effective quality eye care along with the full range of product options without the restrictions and impediments to quality imposed by third-party plans.