Practice Area Interest Groups

**Business & Transactions**
The **Business & Transactions Interest Group** focuses on the law and its application to the broad scope of transactions and business operations in the healthcare industry. It provides opportunities for its members to interact in a variety of settings and to review and comment on legislative and regulatory developments.

- Mergers, acquisitions and affiliations, integrated health systems, technology (electronic and bio-medical), contractual and joint venture business relationships and federal and state regulatory compliance.
- Addresses the rules governing health and other welfare benefit plans with particular emphasis on HIPAA, COBRA, Medicare Secondary Payor rules, ERISA Title I rules and executive compensation issues as well as the special problems facing not-for-profit employers in the healthcare industry in providing benefits to their employees.
- Examines the challenges facing the healthcare industry from a tax and regulatory perspective and monitor legislative and regulatory developments while serving as a forum for debate and exchange on topics of concern in the tax and accounting arena.

**eHealth, Privacy & Security**
The **eHealth, Privacy & Security Interest Group** focuses on cutting edge issues in health care technology and privacy. Substantive topics of interest to members include health information privacy and security, electronic communications, electronic transactions and telehealth. It seeks to encourage discussion and debate on emerging legal issues in these areas.

**Healthcare Facility Operations**
The **Healthcare Facility Operations Interest Group** focuses on the laws, regulations, and policies governing the operations of hospitals and other healthcare facilities. It focuses on Medicare, Medicaid, EMTALA, state and local licensure laws and regulations, and standards of national organizations such as the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), and the National Committee on Quality Assurance. Within its purview, this IG:

- Monitors enforcement activity;
- Follows and, where appropriate and applicable, comments on legislative and regulatory developments; and
- Serves as a forum for the exchange of information and debate on these activities.

**Healthcare Fraud & Compliance**
The **Healthcare Fraud & Compliance Interest Group** addresses topical, cutting edge issues focused on fraud and abuse prevention, investigations and prosecutions, including but not limited to compliance issues, emerging managed care issues, kickback and Stark Law issues, institutional and non-institutional physician issues, ethical issues, false claims issues, quality of care issues, and private sector enforcement initiatives.

**Healthcare Litigation & Risk Management**
The **Healthcare Litigation & Risk Management Interest Group** broadly focuses on real-world, healthcare-related litigation, investigations, and the continuum of liability control. The wide variety of healthcare-related litigation and investigatory matters addressed by this IG includes administrative, civil and criminal cases, whether they arise in such areas as:

- Tort liability;
- Coverage and reimbursement appeals;
- Fraud & abuse allegations;
- False Claims Act/Qui Tam allegations;
- Anti-kickback violation allegations;
- Stark and antitrust issues;
- Payor-provider disputes;
- Suspension and exclusion; and
- Professional licensure disputes.

On the risk management side, the Interest Group focuses on best practices to reduce the risk of policy, regulatory or legal violations, as well as best practices to address potential and or actual violations.

**Life Sciences**
The **Life Sciences Interest Group** focuses on the wide spectrum of regulation affecting the life science industry, including medical research, drug and device development, product lifecycle issues, clinical outcomes and ethics. It broadly serves members advising or interested in pharmaceutical, medical device and clinical research organizations and academic medical centers. This IG offers educational programs and publications. It serves as a resource to the Health Law Section and its members regarding developments broadly affecting the regulation of participants in the life science industry.
Managed Care & Insurance

The Managed Care & Insurance Interest Group serves as a resource to attorneys who represent or regulate entities and/or individuals doing business in the managed care industry. An emphasis is placed on tracking federal and state laws and regulations as well as market trends with a focus on:

- Managed care liability;
- Ongoing statutory and regulatory reforms;
- Balance billing and out-of-network issues;
- Insolvency issues affecting the organized delivery of care;
- Contracting strategies and innovations;
- Changing status of health care delivery and reimbursement;
- Restructuring and management of risk-sharing arrangements;
- New products offered by payors and employers;
- Payor/provider relationships; and
- New policies or issues affecting managed care, such as network tiering, valued-based purchasing, etc.

Payment & Reimbursement

The Payment & Reimbursement Interest Group follows trends, changes and practices in reimbursement, billing and collection under Medicare, Medicaid, and other federal and state health care programs. It tracks major development relating to reimbursement and payment policies of other third-party payors including commercial insurers and self-insured entities.

Physician Issues

The Physician Issues Interest Group (IG) focuses on issues relating to other issues relevant to attorneys who represent physicians such as:

- Joint ventures;
- Stark Law and fraud and abuse;
- Practice management arrangements;
- Medical staff issues;
- Medical malpractice insurance issues;
- Credentialing issues; and
- HIPAA

Public Health & Policy

The Public Health & Policy Interest Group provides leadership to the ABA Health Law Section, and the ABA at large, in the area of public health and policy matters. Its members monitor developments on matters as diverse as control of disease and other public health threats outside of institutional settings, balancing privacy and other civil rights against public health considerations, and education of the public concerning public health and policy issues. This IG is involved in the interaction of state and local bar associations with local public health officials to promote public health and policy initiatives. It provides a forum for members with differing educational backgrounds to focus on public health and policy issues and initiatives. It coordinates activities with other IGs as well as with external ABA organizations, such as the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Practice Area Task Forces

ADR & Conflict Management

The ADR & Conflict Management Task Force (TF) is a resource for sharing best practices and content expertise with Health Law Section members where there is interest in developing conflict competency in healthcare settings. This TF fosters knowledge and skills in:

- Formal and informal conflict management;
- Conflict prevention and early intervention strategies;
- Collaborative problem-solving;
- Arbitration, mediation, mediation advocacy, and dispute system design.

It collaborates with other ABA entities such as the Dispute Resolution Section on programming and other educational initiatives.

Nursing & Allied Healthcare Professionals

The Nursing and Allied Healthcare Professionals Task Force focuses on matters of interest to members representing nurses, pharmacists, respiratory therapists, physical and occupational therapists, paramedics, and related business entities such as home health agencies and ambulance services. Specifically, it focuses on issues related to:

- Administrative and regulatory actions related to licensing;
- Fraud and abuse;
- Insurance and Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement;
- Medical malpractice and insurance;
- Credentialing, HIPAA, and more.

The Task Force will ensure that its activities are coordinated with the other Interest Groups and Task Forces that also address these matters of interest.

Join the ABA Health Law Section at
http://ambar.org/healthlaw
Post-Acute Care Continuum

The Post-Acute Care Continuum (PACC) Task Force (TF) focuses on the many legal issues raised within the post-acute care continuum setting including:

- Skilled nursing facilities;
- Home health agencies;
- Assisted living facilities;
- Dementia and brain injury units;
- Continuing care retirement communities;
- Home and community-based services;
- Rehabilitation and restorative therapy;
- Out-patient services, pharmacy, hospice, and more.

Educational/Outreach Interest Groups

Cancer Legal Advocacy

The Cancer Legal Advocacy Interest Group is the Health Law Section’s pro bono project designed to lead and implement educational programs that protect the legal rights of cancer patients and their families. With a focus on advocacy training for attorneys interested in assisting patients who need legal advice related to their diagnosis and treatment, this IG:

- Provides resources for lawyers and patients coping with the complex legal issues related to cancer and other life-threatening diseases;
- Coordinates cancer legal advocacy workshops; and
- Provides a comprehensive training toolkit and Cancer Legal Advocacy Training Guide.

Medical/Legal Partnership

The Medical/Legal Partnership (MPLs) Interest Group promotes the development and support of partnerships between physicians, social services, and attorneys at hospitals and other health care facilities. It addresses the legal needs that negatively affect health conditions of individuals through education, support, resources and connecting volunteers with MLP projects. This Work Group is also working with the ABA Veterans Legal Services Commission to establish MLPs at VA medical facilities to help address the myriad of legal problems that affect the health conditions of our country’s active service personnel, veterans, and their families.

Military & Veterans Health Law

The Military and Veterans Health Law Interest Group encompasses all areas of health law pertaining to active military personnel and veterans with a particular focus on collaboration with the ABA’s Military Pro Bono Center and Veterans’ Claims Assistance Network (VCAN) which provide legal assistance in eight Civil Law areas.

The Military and Veterans Health IG also serves as a resource to Law School Veterans Clinics by offering a mechanism for sharing:

- Best practices and recent trends;
- Proposed and new regulations including agency mandates, documents, policies, protocols and forms;
- Implementation of laws and regulations; and
- Content expertise.

Substance Use Disorders & Mental Health

The Substance Use Disorders & Mental Health Interest Group fosters attorney and public participation in innovative programs in health care, alternative medicine, education, family dynamics, business and in the criminal justice system to address these conditions. It promotes practices that support prevention, education, treatment, recovery and management of substance use disorders and mental health conditions, including the removal of legal barriers to successful addiction and mental health recovery; and access to and delivery of health care services at the state and federal levels. The Interest Group examines the effects of substance use disorders and mental health conditions on society, the practice of law, and the nature of the American justice system.

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Networking & Engagement
Interest Groups

Government Attorneys
The Government Attorneys Interest Group provides networking and engagement opportunities, programs, publications, and online resources for lawyers whose practice and/or interests lie at the intersection of government and healthcare. Membership is comprised of Health Law Section members with an interest in or experience working with or for governmental healthcare entities on the federal, state, tribal, local, or territorial jurisdictional level. This IG serves as a resource for these attorneys by providing a mechanism for sharing best practices, recent trends, proposed and new regulations and agency mandates, documents, policies, protocols and forms, implementation of laws and regulations, and content expertise.

In-House Counsel
The In-House Counsel Interest Group encompasses all areas of health law with a particular focus on meeting the needs of in-house practitioners. Specifically, this IG focuses on examination of the varied backgrounds working as in-house counsel for hospitals, health systems, physician groups, and payors.

Special Interest Ad Hoc Task Force
Health Reform (Addresses issues as needed)
The Health Law Section Health Reform Ad Hoc Task Force monitors and serves as an educational resource focused on the potential repeal and replacement of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). It provides and disseminate updates, educational resources, and information on proposed and finalized changes to the ACA.

Please note the Task Force does not advocate for any specific changes or take any positions regarding any potential repeal and replacement of the Act.

We invite you to join a FREE Task Force or Interest Group today!

Put your membership dollars to work for you starting today. Take advantage of the benefits available to you through a free ABA Health Law Section Interest Group or Task Force membership.

The main work of the Section is done through its Interest Groups (IGs) and Task Forces (TFs). The working groups provide opportunities for participation by Section members, creating a forum for interaction and networking in areas of shared interest. The groups are broken down into three groups: Practice Area Interest Groups & Task Forces, Educational /Outreach Interest Groups, and Networking & Engagement Interest Groups.

Membership in IGs and TFs is included as part of your Section membership. There is no additional fee to join an IG or TF and no limit on the number of groups you may join once you have become a member of the Health Law Section.

All Section members are welcomed and invited to join the IG/TFs of their choice and at a level that is most comfortable for them whether that means authoring an article, sitting on a planning committee, writing a white paper, commenting on a new piece of legislation, or simply receiving updates. There is no pressure or expectation that you should participate beyond your comfort zone.

How to Contact Us

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Interest Group Enrollment Form

Enrollment Form
Name: __________________________
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Please enroll me in:

[ ] American Bar Association*
(I am currently a non-member)
[ ] Health Law Section*
(I am currently a non-member)
[ ] The following Health Law Section Interest Groups*

*ABA and Health Law Section membership is a prerequisite to enrollment in any Health Law Section Interest Group

Interest Groups
(choose up to 3 Interest Groups)

Practice Area Interest Groups
- Business & Transactions (HL 021000)
- eHealth, Privacy & Security (HL 020300)
- Healthcare Facility Operations (HL 020100)
- Healthcare Fraud & Compliance (HL 020500)
- Healthcare Litigation & Risk Management (HL 020600)
- Life Sciences (HL 020200)
- Managed Care & Insurance (HL 020700)
- Payments & Reimbursements (HL 020800)
- Physician Issues (HL 021080)
- Public Health & Policy (HL 021080)

Practice Area Task Forces
- ADR & Conflict Management in Healthcare (HL 000840)
- Post-Acute Care Continuum Task Force (HL 000789)
- Nursing & Allied Healthcare Professionals (HL 000820)

Educational/Outreach Interest Groups
- Cancer Legal Advocacy Initiative (HL 901040)
- Medical/Legal Partnerships Working Group (HL-000930)
- Military & Veterans Health Law (HL 000776)
- Substance Use Disorders & Mental Health (HL 000830)

Networking & Engagement Interest Groups
- Government Attorneys (HL 000805)
- In-House Counsel (HL 000793)

Special Interest Ad Hoc Task Force
(Available only for as long as required)
- Health Reform (HL 000838)

Return your completed form to
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