



Jessica A. Ellel

Director

Chair, Health Care Law Practice Group

412-288-2260

jaellel@hh-law.com

Practice Areas

Health Care

Chair of the firm's Health Care Law Practice, Jessica works almost exclusively with health care entities and health practitioners. She has extensive experience with:

- Drafting and negotiating physician employment agreements from both the physician and employer perspectives
- Negotiating contracts between physicians and hospitals
- Preparing purchase agreements to govern the sale of medical practices
- Advising on corporate governance issues, from practice formation to dissolution
- Developing comprehensive compliance plans for physician practices, hospitals, third-party billing administrators, and other health care and related entities
- Organizing strategies for compliance with fraud and abuse laws
- Addressing HIPAA compliance

Jessica is especially well-versed in HIPAA compliance and authors numerous client updates and bulletins on the subject. She conducts on-site and remote HIPAA training and also maintains Houston Harbaugh's HIPAA compliance manual, "Federal HIPAA Privacy Standards Simplified: A Comprehensive Tool-Kit".

As an outgrowth of her work with non-profit health care entities, Jessica also helps non-profit organizations and foundations with their corporate affairs, such as obtaining and maintaining 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status and handling regulatory compliance matters. Her experience in the non-profit industry includes serving as counsel during the merger of several multi-state non-profits into one regional entity which required communication and information sharing with the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office to obtain approval for the transaction.

Jessica frequently publishes articles and presents on issues relating to physician employment agreements, the Affordable Care Act, and other compliance issues. She has published articles in the Allegheny County Medical Society Bulletin and in the Physicians News Digest.

Bar Admissions

- Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania

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Education

- University of Pittsburgh School of Law, J.D.
Certification in Health Law, Topics Editor for The Pittsburgh Journal of Technology Law and Policy
- Cornell University, B.S.

Awards/Recognition

- Best Lawyers® 2027 Health Care Law “Lawyer of the Year”
- Best Lawyers in America® Health Care Law recognition consistently since 2021
- Pennsylvania Super Lawyers, Rising Stars 2008

Professional Affiliations

- Current Member and Former Executive Council Member, Allegheny County Bar Association's Women in the Law Division
- Current Council Member and Past Chair, Health Law Section of the Allegheny County Bar Association
- Member, National Health Lawyers Association

Community Involvement

- Vice-Chair of the Local Advisory Board for the Western Pennsylvania Division of the Arthritis Foundation, Great Lakes Region
- Magee Women's Research Institute and Foundation Board of Directors (Leadership On Board Participant, 2008-2010)
- Leadership Development Initiative XV, 2007-2008

Publications

- **Physicians – Will You Benefit from Tax Reform?**
February 2018
- **First Settlement is a Wake-Up Call for Business Associates Working With Health Care Providers**
August 2016
- **New CMS Payment Models Imminent**
June 2016
- **Rules on Returning Medicare Overpayment Finalized**
February 2016
- **Executive Action Amends HIPAA: Allows More Reporting to Criminal Background Check System**
January 2016
- **New Year, New Delays for ACA Reporting Requirements (co-author)**
January 2015
- **New DOJ Compliance Counsel Underscores Need for Compliance Plans**
November 2015
- **Security Risk Analysis is Key to Passing Healthcare Audits**
November 2015
- **Audit Awareness: What you need to know if you are using EHR**
Allegheny County Medical Society Bulletin – August 2014
- **Final Omnibus Rule: What You Need to do to Ensure Continued HIPAA Compliance**
August 2013
- **New HIPAA Rule Bring Changes to Breach Notification Rules**



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Western Pennsylvania Healthcare News - March 2013

- **CMS Publishes Final Rules for Stage 2 Meaningful Use**
September 2012
- **Incorporating hospitalists into your practice**
Physician News Digest – July 13, 2008
- **Big Changes Coming for ASC Reimbursement**
Allegheny County Medical Society Bulletin – February 2008
- **Pennsylvania Act 169: What Every Physician Needs to Know**
Allegheny County Medical Society Bulletin – October 2007

Representative Engagements

- Successfully defended client against HIPAA complaint filed with the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Civil Rights
- Negotiated an exclusive contract between physician practice and hospital
- Assisted physician practice in securing support from community hospital for recruitment arrangements for new physicians
- Assisted associate physician in purchasing medical practice from retiring senior physician
- Drafted EMTALA policies and protocols for community hospital
- Oversaw formation of small non-profit corporation and assisted in the entity obtaining recognition as a tax exempt entity by the IRS