

Darren Skyles

Partner

Heritage Plaza
1111 Bagby Street
Suite 2100
Houston, TX 77002

T 346.646.5021

darren.skyles@nelsonmullins.com



Darren has deep knowledge and experience in healthcare legal matters, including mergers & acquisitions, transactional enterprises, regulatory issues, compliance/governance, operational matters, corporate transactions, fraud and abuse, privacy and security, medical staff issues, governmental entity laws, litigation, and outside general counsel services. Darren also collaborates with clients on value-based care payment models and advises on specialized corporate transactions in the healthcare space.

Darren maintains a focus on artificial intelligence (AI) governance issues. As clients' risks and vulnerabilities with the rapidly advancing pace of AI development and application increase, Darren counsels clients on its expansion and challenges, helping them develop effective AI governance programs.

Experience

The following is a selected sampling of matters and is provided for informational purposes only. Past success does not indicate the likelihood of success in any future matter.

Representative Matters

- Oversaw the legal, compliance, and regulatory affairs of two healthcare systems which grew, during his representation and oversight, into significantly larger health care systems
- Negotiated and transacted multiple deals for the purchase or sale of a healthcare practice (medical, dental, senior living, and veterinary space)
- Represented large corporations in the acquiring of healthcare provider practices in multiple states, drafting the documentation, forming the corporate structure, and counseling on the development of a Management Services Organization including:
 - Advising and transacting deals for a national chiropractic provider on both MSO and franchise models of organization
 - Counseling, guiding and transacting for the purchase and acquisition of a large, multi-state urgent care practice via

Education

University of Houston, JD (2004)

University of Houston, BA, magna cum laude (1991)

Admissions

Texas

Practice Areas

[Mergers & Acquisitions](#)

[Healthcare Regulatory, Compliance & Operations](#)

[Healthcare Transactions](#)

[Healthcare Providers & Suppliers](#)

[Healthcare Government Investigations & Litigation](#)

MSO model

- Transacting for and drafting the required documentation for the purchase and acquisition of senior living facilities in multiple states.
- Negotiating joint Ventures between hospitals and medical practices
- Assisting with Clinically Integrated Network among healthcare providers
- Counseling on merger of medical practices (multi-specialty and single-specialty)
- Analyzed, audited, and provided counsel on large healthcare systems' healthcare compliance programs
- Counseled three large healthcare systems on healthcare regulatory matters in the areas of Stark, Anti-Kickback, and HIPAA as well as hospital and physician operational matters
- Represented hospitals and physicians in physician employment and physician recruitment agreements
- Counseled a medical center on its efforts in moving its clinical research toward commercial realization
- Counseled software start-up company on its business marketing plan and its legal position during its evolution toward the market

Previous Professional Experience

- Vice President of Legal Affairs, The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston
- Law Firm Healthcare practice group leader
- Director, Division of Public Affairs of The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center

Recognitions

The bar rules of some states require that the standards for an attorney's inclusion in certain public accolades or recognitions be provided. When such accolades or recognitions are listed, a hyperlink is provided that leads to a description of the respective selection methodology.

- [The Best Lawyers in America®](#), Health Care Law (2024-2026)
- Houston's Top Lawyers List, Houstonia Magazine, Health Care Law (2022)

Professional Activities

- American Health Law Association
- Texas State Bar Association
- Houston Bar Association, Co-Chair, Campaign to End Homelessness & Hunger

- Houston Christian Legal Society

Articles & Speeches

Insights

What is Value-Based Care? - Contributor (October 2023)
Private Equity and Creating and Fostering a Culture of Healthcare Compliance - Co-Author (July 2023)
Healthcare Compliance Due Diligence Essentials for Private Equity Investment - Co-Author (May 2023)
Enforcement Trends and Caution Points in Healthcare Private Equity Investing - Co-Author (March 2023)
Healthcare Compliance Precautions in Private Equity: An Ounce of Prevention - Co-Author (December 2022)
Legal and Payer Changes Focus on Addressing Social Determinants of Health - Co-Author (April 2022)
Clinically Integrated Networks and the Triple Aim: Better Healthcare, Reduced Costs - Co-Author (January 2022)

Events/Speaking Engagements

[AIMed25: The First & Premier AI in Healthcare Meeting](#)- Speaker (November 9, 2025)
[Imperato, Markus, and Skyles to Present at the Healthcare General Counsel Forum](#)- Co-Moderator (October 5, 2025)
[Darren Skyles to Speak at the Upcoming Healthcare Leadership Quorum \(HCLQ\) SoCal Event](#)- Moderator (September 25, 2025)
[Darren Skyles and Jake Kohn to Attend Houston Healthcare Leadership Quorum](#)- Moderator (June 5, 2025)
[Nelson Mullins 2024 Value-Based Care Conference: Evolving Value-Based Strategies](#)- Speaker (November 7, 2024)
[Texas Health Law Conference](#)- Speaker (October 6, 2024)
[2024 Los Angeles Healthcare Leadership Quorum](#)- Chair and Moderator (October 3, 2024)
Leading Through Mergers and Acquisitions - Speaker (June 20, 2024)
[2024 Houston Healthcare Leadership Quorum](#)- Chair and Moderator (June 6, 2024)
[AI for Healthcare Leaders](#)- Speaker (April 19, 2024)
Navigating the Intersection of Industry and the Law: Essential Legal Knowledge for Healthcare Executives, Critical Legal Issues in the Healthcare Industry - Speaker (June 2021)
Navigating the AI Drama with a Governance Program - Speaker (February 2024)
Realizing the Promise and Managing the Perils of AI, Bayou City/Bio Pulse – Greater Houston Partnership Life Sciences Lecture Series - Speaker (December 2023)
High Risk Areas in M&A Healthcare Acquisitions, National Association for Legal Support Professionals - Speaker (August 2023)
First Annual Healthcare Leadership Quorum - Speaker (June 2023)
Practical Applications of Value-Based Enterprises - Speaker (June 2023)
High Risk Areas in M&A Healthcare Acquisitions, Association of Corporate Counsel Houston - Speaker (July 2023)
Implications in Structuring Value-Based Arrangements: A Practical Approach, American Health Law Association – Health Care Transactions Program - Speaker (April 2023)
Healthcare Disruptors & Innovators, Greater Houston Society for Healthcare Risk Management - Speaker (October 2022)
The Power of Value-Based Care Payment Models, Cincinnati Bar Association Health Law Section - Speaker (September 2022)
Managing the Unmanageable in a HIPAA Breach Response - Speaker (May 2022)

Managing the Unmanageable in a HIPAA Breach Response, Kentucky Health Law Institute - Speaker (September 2022)

Managing the Unmanageable in a HIPAA Breach Response, College of Healthcare Information Management Executives - Speaker (June 2022)

Managing the Unmanageable in a HIPAA Breach Response, Association of Corporate Counsel - Speaker (December 2022 and January 2023)

Overview of Legal Affairs Counsel and Services, with Focus on Risk Management - Speaker (May 2019)