

Michael J. Bittman

Partner

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Michael is board certified as a specialist in Health Law and in Healthcare Compliance. He has experience representing clients in the healthcare industry, including hospitals, nursing homes, managed care companies, payors, pharmacies, medical equipment suppliers, home health agencies, and physicians. He has been lead trial counsel in a number of federal, state, and administrative health law cases and represents clients in healthcare fraud investigations, qui tam or whistleblower cases, contract disputes, health insurance claims, malpractice, and medical staff disputes. He has also handled fraud and reimbursement cases involving millions of dollars in Medicare and Medicaid funds.

In addition to his litigation experience, Michael has served as outside general counsel for hospitals and other healthcare entities and represents parties in healthcare transactions, including the drafting of purchase and sale contracts, leases, management agreements, letters of intent, and other documents.

He is well versed in federal and state fraud and abuse laws, and he provides advice and recommendations to clients regarding their compliance and risk reduction.

Michael is a frequent presenter on issues related to health law, such as false claims, Medicare and Medicaid, health facility operations, governance, medical records, health insurance, ERISA, managed care liability, peer review, and fraud and abuse.

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.

- Regularly conducts internal investigations into potential overpayments, and advises health care clients on strategies to minimize legal risks, including self-disclosure and making refunds to payers.
- Represents health care clients in government investigations and in qui tam actions filed under the federal and Florida False

Education

The Catholic University of America
Columbus School of Law, JD (1982)

Georgetown University, BSBA,
Business and Accounting (1979)

Admissions

Florida

District of Columbia

Supreme Court of the United States

U.S. District Court for the District of
Columbia

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh
Circuit

U.S. District Court for the Middle District of
Florida

U.S. District Court for the Southern District
of Florida

U.S. Tax Court

Certifications

Certified in Health Law, Florida Bar

Certified in Healthcare Compliance (CHC),
Compliance Certification Board of the
Health Care Compliance Association

Practice Areas

[Healthcare Regulatory, Compliance &](#)

Claims Acts.

- Served as lead defense counsel in a five-day civil False Claims Act trial before the Honorable Wm. Terrell Hodges, Senior U.S. District Judge, U.S. ex rel. Ortolano v. Amin Radiology, Case No. 5:10-cv-583 (M.D. Fla.). Judge Hodges granted Amin Radiology's motion for judgment as a matter of law and entered judgment in its favor, 2015 WL 403221 (M.D. Fla. Jan. 28, 2015), which the Eleventh Circuit affirmed, 2016 WL 1743474 (11th Cir. May 3, 2016).
- Led the team representing the West Orange Healthcare District in its 2012 sale to Orlando Health, Inc. for \$181,000,000.
- Served as outside general counsel to two Florida public hospitals.
- Represents hospitals and physicians in contested peer review proceedings and litigation.
- Successfully represented hospitals and nursing homes in recovering tens of millions of dollars from the Florida Medicaid program.

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.

- [AV® Preeminent™ Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell](#)
- [The Best Lawyers in America®](#), Health Care Law (2006–2026)
- [The Best Lawyers in America®](#), Lawyer of the Year, Orlando, FL, Health Care Law (2012, 2016, 2018, 2022)
- [Florida Super Lawyer](#) for Healthcare (2006–2025)
- [Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business](#), Healthcare – Florida (2010–2025)
- Best of the Best USA by ExpertGuides in Healthcare (2016)
- [Florida Legal Elite by Florida Trend magazine](#) (2010, 2013)
- Top 100 Most Influential for Orlando Business Journal (2002)
- Best Health Care Attorney in Orlando for Florida Medical Business (2001)

Professional Activities

- Past Chair, The Florida Bar Health Law Section
- Member, American Bar Association
 - Litigation Section
 - Health Law Section
- Member, American Health Lawyers Association

Operations

[Healthcare Government Investigations & Litigation](#)

[Healthcare Providers & Suppliers](#)

[Healthcare Qui Tam Investigations & Litigation](#)

[Qui Tam Litigation](#)

Articles & Speeches

Insights

[The judiciary's role in disputes over COVID-19 workplace standards: A tale of two approaches](#), *Thomson Reuters Westlaw*- Co-Author (July 20, 2020)

[Fla. Businesses Beware: The Lurking Theory of COVID-19 Negligent Transmission](#), *Daily Business Review*- Author (May 27, 2020)

[Limited Liability Legislation May Help Florida Reopen](#), *Law 360*- Author (May 19, 2020)

Events/Speaking Engagements

[2023 Florida Compliance and Privacy Consortium](#)- Co-Speaker (January 26, 2023)

[Healthcare Enforcement Compliance Conference](#)- Co-Speaker (November 7, 2022)

[CONSERO Healthcare General Counsel Virtual Forum: Preparing for the Immediate and Long-Term Effects of COVID-19](#)- Moderator (March 10, 2021)

[2019 CONSERO Healthcare General Counsel Forum](#)- Speaker (October 19-22, 2019)

Individual Liability for Organizational Compliance Matters, Presentation to Southern Atlantic Healthcare Alliance - Presenter (June 21, 2019)

Florida Peer Review of Physicians: The High Price of Immunity, The Florida Bar, Health Law Section Lunch and Learn - Co-Presenter (December 11, 2018)

[Healthcare Enforcement Compliance Association Conference](#)- Panelist (November 4-7, 2018)

[Partners Imperato, Hackworth Jones, Bittman Participated at the 2018 Consero Healthcare General Counsel Forum](#)- Presenter and Panelist (October 27-30, 2018)

[Partner Mike Bittman to Present on Trends in Hospital Fraud and Abuse](#)- Presenter (September 12, 2018)