

Carol K. Lucas

Los Angeles, California
Shareholder

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Areas of Practice & Industry Specialties

Health Care Law; Corporate Law; Mergers and Acquisitions;
Telehealth; Health Care/Life Sciences



Carol K. Lucas focuses her practice on healthcare law and general business law. She has extensive experience in mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, securities, private placements, state and federal regulations, entity formation and corporate representation of both public and private companies in the healthcare industry. Over the last several years, Ms. Lucas has represented numerous clients in connection with issues and disputes related to payment for healthcare services. She is also an expert on the establishment and representation of Federally Qualified Health Centers and related issues such as governance requirements, issues raised by hospital sponsorship of FQHCs, application issues, and the impact of health care reform on these entities. She also specializes in the representation of ambulatory surgery centers, med spas, imaging centers, and other ancillary providers in a variety of medical specialties, and in the legal and business issues that confront independent practice associations and other physician organizations.

Ms. Lucas is Chair of the Firm's Health Care Practice Group and former Co-Chair of the Corporate Practice Group. Ms. Lucas, is AV Preeminent rated by *Martindale Hubbell* and is recognized by *Chambers USA* as a leader in the Health Care field and one of America's Leading Lawyers for Business. She was selected by *Corporate Counsel* as a 2012 Top Rated Lawyer in Health Care Law. Ms. Lucas was also recognized by *Super Lawyer Magazine* as one of the "Top 50 Women in Law" and a Southern California *Super Lawyer* from 2011 – 2021. In 2019, she was recognized by the *Los Angeles Business Journal* as a Nominee for the 2019 "Women's Council" awards. Most recently, she was named one of *Los Angeles Business Journal's* "Women of Influence: Health Care" in 2021. Ms. Lucas was also nominated to the *Best Lawyers in America*, Health Care Law, for 2023.

Ms. Lucas has given lectures at numerous seminars and conferences, including meetings sponsored by the State Bar of California, American Health Lawyers Association, and The Future of Health Care Delivery Conference.

Representative Matters

- Sale of a hospitalist and intensivist practice to a public hospital-based medicine provider
- Sale of an emergency medicine group to a public hospital-based medicine provider
- Acquisition of a multi-site anesthesia practice based in Southern California
- Sale of a majority interest in a multi-specialty ambulatory surgery center to a national surgery center operator
- A closely held teleradiology company in its merger with a public teleradiology company.
- An IPA acquired by a large regional IPA.
- A number of non-profit community clinic operators applying for the Federal FQHC program.
- A laser surgery practice in its expansion through acquisition of additional practices.

- The California Association of Physician Groups in the formation of trade association, governance issues, and general health care matters.
- Numerous medical groups in corporate and compliance matters.
- An orthopedic group in the buyout of a hospital partner in a joint ambulatory surgery center.
- A major regional insurance brokerage in its sale to a significant financial institution.
- A national pharmacy benefits manager with respect to requirements of California Knox-Keene Act.
- A national medical laboratory company with California corporate practice of medicine issues.
- A national surgery center and surgical hospital developer in acquisition and syndication of facilities in California, Kansas, and Texas.

Publications

- Traps For The Unwary Telehealth Provider, *Competition Policy International* , September 22, 2022
- Corporate Practice of Medicine on Steroids, *Buchalter Client Alert*, May 11, 2021
- Buchalter Client Alert COVID-19: Hastening Telehealth Provision of Medical Services Across State Lines, *Buchalter Client Alert*, April 30, 2020
- DYNAMEX UPDATE: Are There Still Independent Contractors in California?, *Buchalter Health Care Newsletter*, October 23, 2018
- Healthcare Client Alert: California Supreme Court's Dynamex Decision Alters Independent Contractor Landscape, *Buchalter Health Care Client Alert*, June 26, 2018
- Are You Ready for AB 72?, *Buchalter Client Alert*, June 21, 2017
- California Clamps Down On Surprise Out-Of-Network Bills, September 29, 2016
- Aetna vs. BASM: Pigs Get Fat and Hogs Get Slaughtered, *Buchalter Nemer Client Alert*, April 2016
- New ASC Requirements Coming in 2016, December 18, 2015
- Lions and Tigers and Bears, Oh My! The Unexpected Laws that May Affect Your Telehealth Business, *Buchalter Nemer Health Care and Life Sciences Practice Newsletter*, September 2015
- Children's Hospital v. Blue Cross: The End of Contracting or Just the End of Gouging?, August 12, 2014
- AB 1000 and Corporate Practice in California: More than Meets the Eye—or Less?, *American Health Lawyers Association Newsletter, Buchalter Nemer Points & Authorities*, Spring 2014
- California Authorizes Pharmacy Licenses for Ambulatory Surgery Centers, *Buchalter Nemer Client Alert*, October 2012
- California Tightens Restrictions on Referrals of Workers' Compensation Patients, *Buchalter Nemer Client Alert*, September 2012
- How the Affordable Care Act Impacts Employers, *Buchalter Nemer Client Alert*, July 6, 2012
- To Penalize or Not To Penalize: When Are Covenants Not To Compete Enforceable in California?, *Buchalter Nemer Points & Authorities*, Fall 2011

Presentations

- Speaker, "Structuring Indemnification Provisions in Healthcare Mergers and Acquisitions," Strafford Webinar, August 11, 2016
- Speaker, "Lions and Tigers and Bears, Oh My!: Legal Traps for the Unwary Telehealth Provider ," Connect.Communicate.Care Conference, March 2, 2016
- Speaker, "Ambulatory Surgery Centers from A to Z: Avoiding Legal Landmines," the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Surgery of the Hand in Seattle, WA, September 11, 2015
- Speaker, "Children's vs. Blue Cross: An End of Out-Of-Network Price Gouging?," the CAPG Annual

Healthcare Conference at the Grand Hyatt in San Diego, CA, June 13, 2015

- Speaker, "The Corporate Practice of Medicine: Why and Where It Still Matters," the Regulation, Accreditation and Payment Practice Group meeting of the American Health Lawyers Association, October 1, 2014
- Speaker, "Best Practices for Navigating Emerging ASC Legal Challenges," the California Ambulatory Surgery Association's Annual Conference in Indian Wells, CA, September 12, 2013
- Guest Speaker, "KFWB's Money 101 ," KFWB's Money 101 with Bob McCormick, May 2, 2013
- Panelist, "Outpatient Vascular Centers," the annual meeting of the Society for Vascular Surgery in Washington D.C, June 6, 2012
- Speaker, "What Are Federally Qualified Health Centers and How Can They Be Integrated into a Continuum of Care?," the Physicians and Physician Organizations Law Institute, February 10, 2011
- Panelist, "Healthcare Reform...Get Ready," the California Fashion Association, September 22, 2010
- Speaker, "Payment Issues Involving Non-Participating Providers: How Can We Determine Reasonable and Customary Reimbursement in a Post-Ingenuix World?," the Hospitals and Health Systems Law Institute in Miami, FL, February 25, 2010

Webinars

- "Pincus Webinar: Understanding the Legal Impact of Covid-19 as it Affects Your Clients, Your Life and Your Business," April 8, 2020

Education

Ms. Lucas received her B.A. *magna cum laude* in History and Film Studies from the University of Rochester in 1979. She earned her J.D. *cum laude* in 1982 from New York University School of Law, where Ms. Lucas was a member of the Annual Survey of American Law and the Order of the Coif.

Bar Admissions

- California
- New York

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court Southern for the District of New York
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York

Community

- Member, American Health Lawyers Association
- Member, Los Angeles County Bar Association
- Member, State Bar of California
- State Bar Business Law Section
 - Current Secretary, Section's Insurance Law Committee
 - Past Chair, Section's Executive Committee
 - Past Co-Chair, Section's Corporations Committee and Health Law Committee
 - Past Vice Chair, Section's Opinions Committee